

Iowa Hunter Education Program Hunting Incident Report

January 1, 2006 - December 31, 2006



**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Richard Leopold, Director**

January 2007

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Conservation and Recreation Division

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Safe Hunting Year Record

Joe Wilkinson, Iowa DNR

For Iowa hunters, 2006 is one for the books. With no deaths and only 14 injuries, last year goes down as the safest hunting year on record.

There were also no deaths--but 17 injuries in 2004, the previous low year. With a single fatality in 2005, safety officials in the Department of Natural Resources point to a couple of major factors for the improved outlook. "Upland bird hunters are now required to wear blaze orange," notes Rod Slings, DNR Safety Education Coordinator. "We also have 1,800 volunteer instructors who instruct about 12,000 students in hunter education each year."

Hunter education in Iowa began in the 1960s; a decade in which it had become common for deaths related to hunting to number in the double digits, with a high of 20 in 1965. Injuries from hunting incidents would range in 70s, 80s and 90s...



with a peak of 121 in 1966. Though safety officials still point out that any death or injury is too many, the trend has dropped dramatically since then.

"We have more people taking hunter education; more adults getting into classes, too," notes DNR Recreational Safety Officer Ken Kenyon. "They are taking them with their children. They might take them to go to other states to hunt. Additionally, we have an entire hunting generation that has grown up with hunter education. Youths who took hunter education 25 or 30 years ago now have kids of their own taking it."

Those classes cover proper handling of firearms, as well as basic wildlife behavior and identification, outdoor ethics, first aid and other topics. Classes are free, and conducted by volunteer instructors. Many offer instruction in the field, including live firing. Successful completion of the ten-hour course is required for anyone born after 1967 to purchase an Iowa hunting license. Iowa has reciprocal agreements with other states and Canadian provinces. "Instructors make sure students understand how hunting incidents happen, what factors contribute to them, and how to avoid them," stresses Kenyon. "Those students are aware of that when they go out in the field. It is something they carry with them for a long time."

Perhaps the most visible hunting incident of 2006 brought more about awareness. "After the February incident involving Vice President Dick Cheney, the hunter education instructors had a visible opportunity to stress that it could happen to anyone," emphasizes Slings.

In 2006 in Iowa, most injuries were self-inflicted, due to careless handling of firearms. Most injuries went to the head or upper torso. Even as hunters and safety officials look back on a record year, though, a gunshot injury in southeast Iowa in the first days of January 2007 brings them back to the reality that safety is a year-to-year goal.



Another leading cause of hunting incidents occurs as a hunter swings on game, and loses track of the position of a fellow hunter. The relatively new (since 2003) requirement for upland bird hunters to wear at least one article of clothing which is at least 50 percent blaze orange has helped improve hunter visibility, contributing to the downturn in injuries and deaths, say safety officials. "DNR Officers are also trained in hunting incident investigation, uncovering facts which provide curriculum focus in the hunter education classroom," says Slings.

The record safe hunting year came in a period in which 255,190 persons bought small game, fur harvester, hunting preserve or lifetime licenses in Iowa. In addition, about 47,000 landowners and tenants received reduced price deer or turkey tags. Those residents do not need the small game license to hunt on their property. Iowa's boom in deer hunting sold 385,543 tags in 2006 (through January 3, 2007). While many hunters held multiple tags, it underscores the number of opportunities in the field, and the potential for injury in a year in which hunters set a safety record.



Firearm Safety, A Trip Down Under

By Rod Slings, Iowa DNR

It was the opportunity of a lifetime to share important information with other countries. It seems everyone is familiar with the television show CSI. That was how people could relate to the IHEA Hunting Incident Investigation Academy techniques of investigating hunting related shootings at the 2006 International Firearms Safety Conference in Christ Church, New Zealand last February. That was my mission and my presentation to share.

People from around the globe were summoned to share their thoughts via paper and presentation at this conference on all aspects of firearm safety. The collection of speakers came from all segments of the firearm community including the anti-gun position. I was representing the hunting community on behalf of the IHEA and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

As luck would have it, IHEA's old friend Bill O'Leary from New Zealand was my host, my travel companion and my friend on this adventure. The trip began for me with an airplane ride from Des Moines to Dallas, then Dallas to Los Angeles. The next part of the trip was a long one, from L.A. non-stop to Auckland, New Zealand on a 747 with 431 other passengers. We left L.A. at 9:30 p.m. and arrived at New Zealand thirteen hours later. The next short hop was from Auckland to Nelson which was only one hour and forty minutes. New Zealand is made up of a north island and south island. Auckland is located on the north end of the north island and Nelson is located on the north end of the south island.



Nelson is the home of Bill O'Leary. Bill has attended IHEA conferences in Missoula and in San Diego. It was great to see a familiar face after such a long journey. It was thirty-five hours from my door at home to Bill's home. We soon enjoyed deer on the Barbie (BBQ) after arriving, with Bill's family and then on to Bill's "hunt camp" south of Nelson to stay overnight. The next day we traveled over to the west coast of the south island to Greymouth, the town where Bill grew up. After a couple of short stops we traveled across the island toward Christ Church on the east side where the conference was to be held. The landscape from the west coast to the east was postcard perfect. The blue water and bright green colors of the bush were unlike anything I had ever witnessed. The mountain ranges were beautiful and the streams were clear and pure. Traveling with Bill, a native of this paradise, provided a history lesson that included the biology of not only the fish and game, but the bush. He shared many stories of his life there. There was no question of his success as a teacher/mentor to many and his life as a conservationist. We shared many ethics discussions about our own worlds and philosophies of the hunt.

The days in Christ Church were very busy and I took a new look at many things. My only regret is not having enough time to catch some fish or share in the hunt. Keeping an open mind was difficult at times when it came to things as simple as gun ownership and the things we take for granted here in the United States. It was a lesson in many things. The people of New Zealand are very welcoming and their hospitality was extraordinary.

“The Incident Scene will speak to you, you must listen for the sake of prevention”

**By Rod Slings
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Des Moines, Iowa United States of America**

**This document was originally presented at the 2006 International Firearms Safety Conference*

International Hunter Education Association's definition of a Hunting Incident:

An occurrence or an event that results in the physical injury or death of a person or persons which involves the discharge or use of a hunting implement while engaged in hunting activity.

As hunting becomes more scrutinized, the focus of the safe use of firearms becomes more of an issue. The skill and knowledge of safe firearm handling is the foundation of keeping hunting the safe activity it has become. Research indicates there are 5.4 hunting incidents per 100,000 hunters per year reported to the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) in the United States.

If we don't know how hunting related firearm incidents occur, we can't prevent them from happening. A good investigation of a hunting incident will result in a fact-finding mission of data collection, information recorded, a conclusion reached based on facts and a lesson in prevention learned. The information gathered detailing the incident is then provided to the Hunter Education Program for curriculum focus to create awareness by hunters of the importance of responsible firearms safety and considerations of legislative change.

Planning for Data Collection:

Research or, in other words, gathering of the factors of hunting related incidents are the key to prevention. There are a number of issues that must be considered. What are the rules or mandates set by the governmental agency overseeing this effort or are there any? What effect will policy, past practice, reporting procedure as to who, what, when, where and how have on an investigation? Who will respond

to the incident when it is reported? Will it be law enforcement, emergency medical staff or others? What is the background and training of the investigator who is called to the incident? Sometimes it gets down to the interest or commitment of the investigator. With a multi-agency investigation, what is the past level of cooperation between these groups? Are the “skids greased” to make the investigation run smoothly? These are all legitimate questions in the search for facts.

It is said, “your investigators are only as good as their training.” Administrators of firearms safety



or hunting safety programs must be prepared to budget and commit to make all investigators knowledgeable and prepared with the most up-to-date information available.

Are the investigators selected to collect the facts mentally and physically prepared to meet the stress and demands of an investigation? Incident scenes can be very overwhelming. The environment can be harsh based on temperature, terrain, what the human eye and mind can digest at the sight and condition of the victim involved.

Equipment will sometimes be the ultimate test of administrators' commitment to the task of good investigations. Does each investigator have the necessary tools in each district or region to locate, protect, record, measure, recover, analyze and preserve the facts when the call comes in? Is the investigator proficient in the operation of these tools; are all tools in good working condition? Are backup tools available if needed in the case of equipment failure? Will these tools work properly in all types of environmental conditions? Not only does the investigator need tools, they need the tools readily available within a moments notice. This can mean transporting them to remote incident locations.

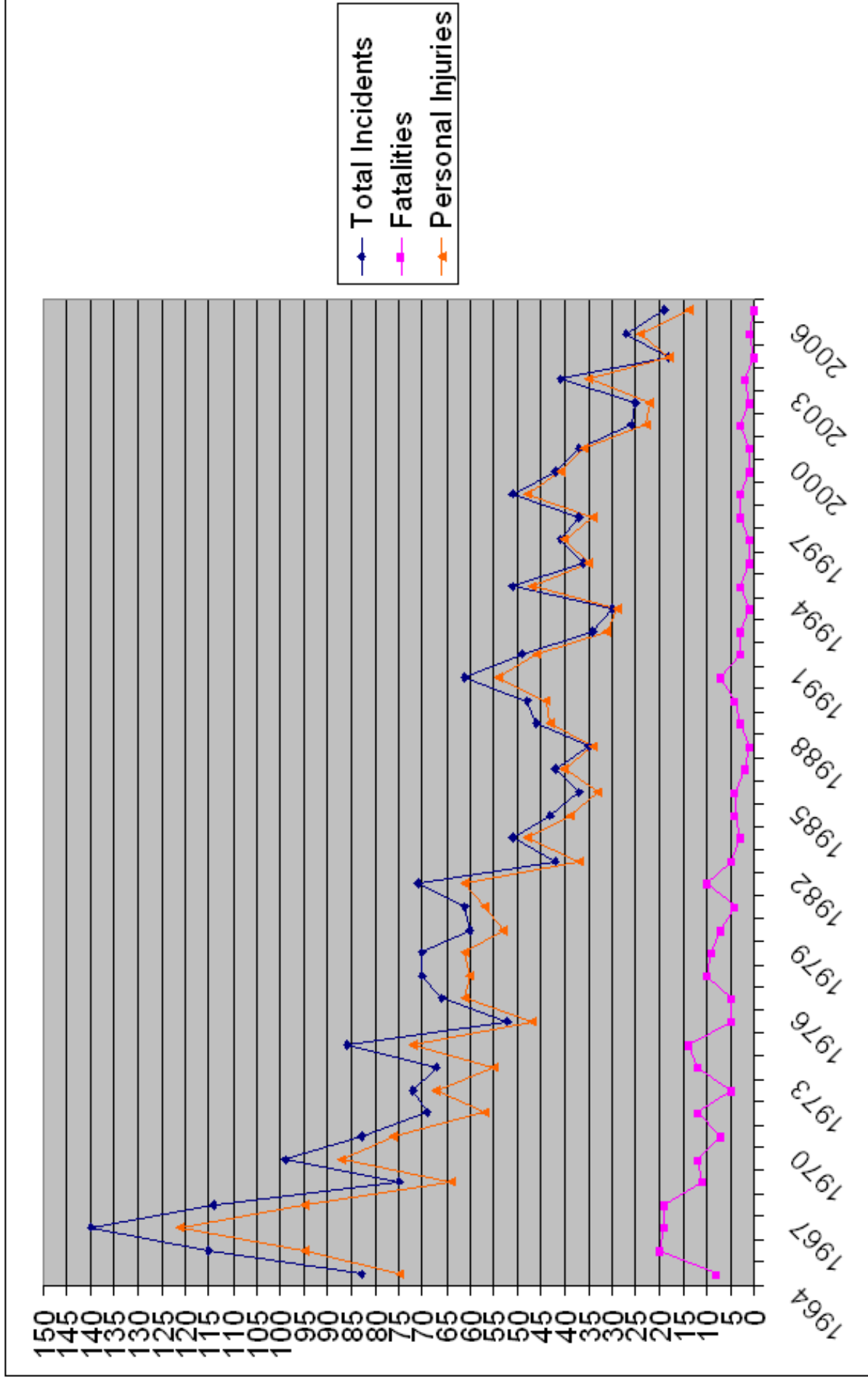
Facts collected at an incident scene can be considered evidence. The proper care, recovery and preservation of evidence must be followed. Certain evidence may need to be submitted for analysis or evaluation to a laboratory. Following the chain of custody of this evidence to and from the lab is also very important. Photographs and other documents generated in the investigation will help tell the story of the incident. This information becomes the pieces of the puzzle that create the picture of the incident. This picture will create a clear view of what occurred.

The media always has a very strong interest in firearm related incidents. The spin which a particular reporter or news agency puts on an incident may vary. When it comes to hunting, the story should be: "It is not news because there are so many, it should be looked upon because there are so few." It is important to provide credit to all agencies when providing information to the media. In some case, hunting incidents may be an attempt to cover something else. Do you have more than a hunting incident? A term used today, is "recreational homicide." This term is used when someone masks the premeditated intent by saying "it was just an accident." What a great way to get rid of a wife's boy friend...just take him hunting. These types of actions have no place being blamed on "it was just an accident." Good investigations must keep suicides and homicides from being added to the statistical data of hunting incidents.

As a result of facts gathered, legislation may "fix" a problem that has been identified. When it comes to hunting related incidents, blaze orange has had a major impact. Being seen can make a big difference. When not wearing the required blaze orange, law enforcement can step in to ensure compliance.

The final report should be a recipe guide of the facts that can be called upon later that will aid in the future prevention of incidents. Data exported from reports should be collected into an annual report and funneled into the hands of hunter education instructors. This recap of events should allow anyone to understand the sequence of events and the lessons learned from the incident. A key thing to remember is that the report is only as good as the investigators signature at the bottom of the report. Remember, "The Incident Scene will speak to you, you must listen for the sake of prevention."

Iowa Hunting Incidents 1964 - 2006



Iowa Hunting Incidents (1964 - 2006)

Year	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Total	Year	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Total
1964	75	8	83	1986	40	2	42
1965	95	20	115	1987	34	1	35
1966	121	19	140	1988	43	3	46
1967	95	19	114	1989	44	4	48
1968	64	11	75	1990	54	7	61
1969	87	12	99	1991	46	3	49
1970	76	7	63	1992	31	3	34
1971	57	12	69	1993	29	1	30
1972	67	5	72	1994	47	3	51
1973	55	12	67	1995	35	1	36
1974	72	14	86	1996	40	1	41
1975	47	5	52	1997	34	3	37
1976	61	5	66	1998	48	3	51
1977	60	10	70	1999	41	1	42
1978	61	9	70	2000	36	1	37
1979	53	7	60	2001	23	3	26
1980	57	4	61	2002	22	1	23
1981	61	10	71	2003	35	2	41
1982	37	5	42	2004	18	0	18
1983	48	3	51	2005	25	1	26
1984	39	4	43	2006	19	0	19
1985	33	4	37				



2006 Breakdown

Personal Injuries: 14
 Property Damage: 5
 Total Incidents: 19

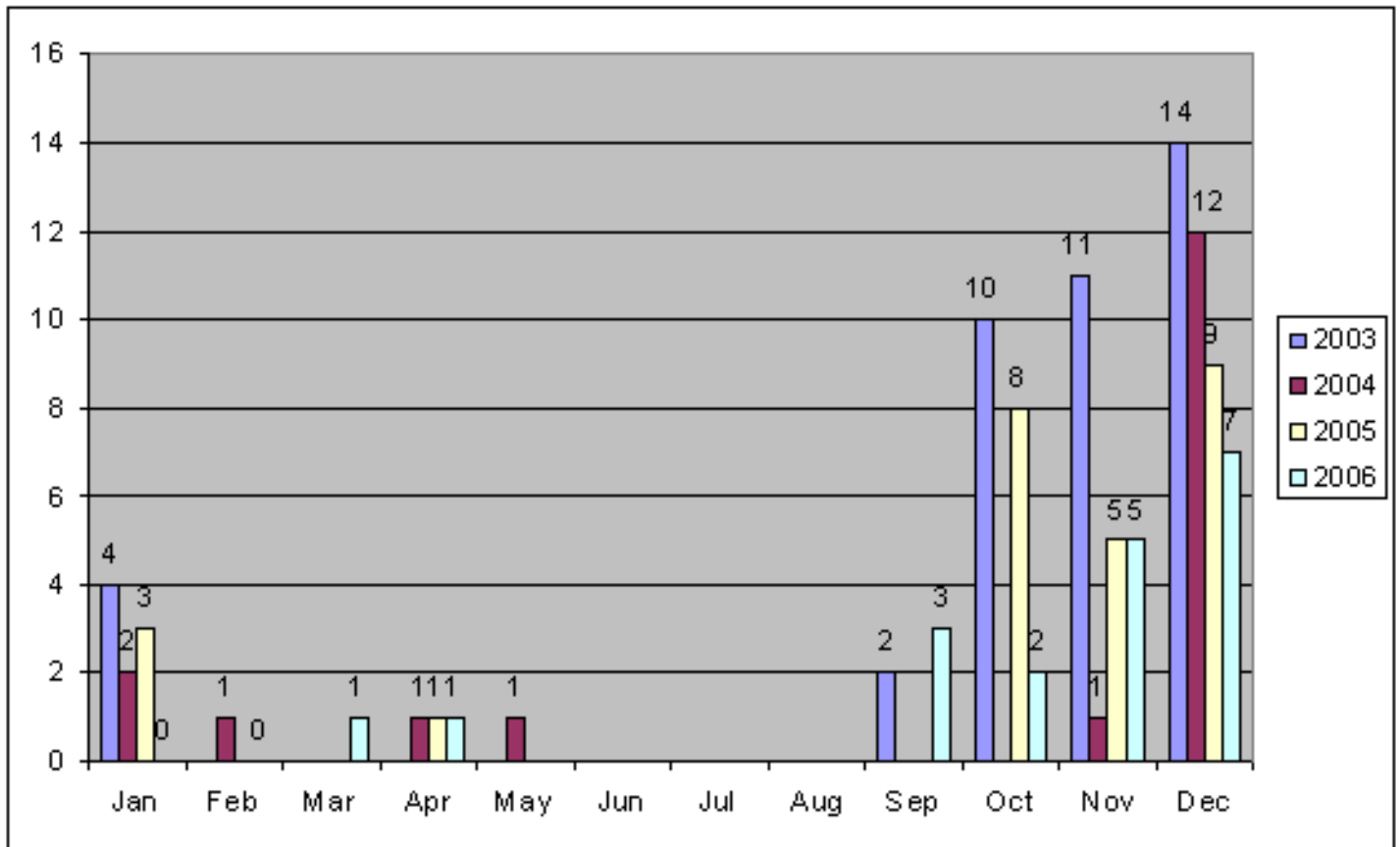
2006 Hunter Education Classes By County

Total Classes: 404
Total Students Certified: 12,198
New Instructors Certified: 140
Total Instructors Certified: 1,887

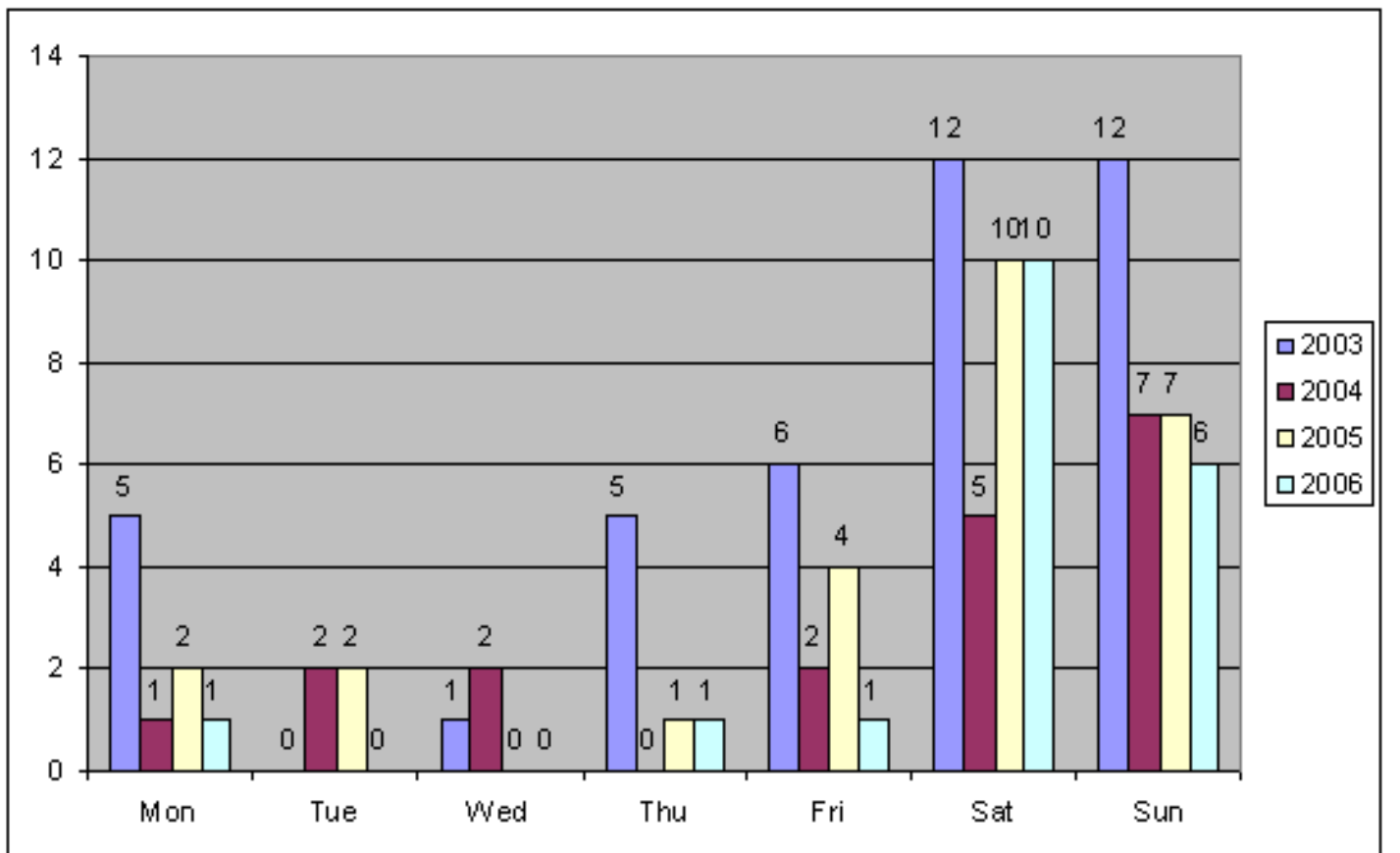
County	# of Classes	County	# of Classes	County	# of Classes
Adair	3	Floyd	4	Monona	3
Adams	3	Franklin	3	Monroe	1
Allamakee	4	Fremont	2	Montgomery	1
Appanoose	5	Greene	2	Muscatine	4
Audubon	1	Grundy	1	OBrien	2
Benton	5	Guthrie	3	Osceola	1
Black Hawk	5	Hamilton	3	Page	3
Boone	3	Hancock	4	Palo Alto	3
Bremer	5	Hardin	2	Plymouth	5
Buchanan	2	Harrison	4	Pocahontas	1
Buena Vista	2	Henry	2	Polk	18
Butler	5	Howard	3	Pottawattamie	7
Calhoun	3	Humboldt	0	Poweshiek	3
Carroll	6	Ida	3	Ringgold	1
Cass	4	Iowa	6	Sac	2
Cedar	3	Jackson	5	Scott	8
Cerro Gordo	6	Jasper	7	Shelby	6
Cherokee	4	Jefferson	5	Sioux	7
Chickasaw	3	Johnson	10	Story	5
Clarke	2	Jones	4	Tama	3
Clay	4	Keokuk	4	Taylor	2
Clayton	6	Kossuth	2	Union	2
Clinton	2	Lee	9	Van Buren	6
Crawford	1	Linn	21	Wapello	4
Dallas	5	Louisa	2	Warren	11
Davis	4	Lucas	6	Washington	4
Decatur	2	Lyon	3	Wayne	1
Delaware	2	Madison	4	Webster	2
Des Moines	5	Mahaska	5	Winnebago	3
Dickinson	3	Marion	5	Winneshiek	5
Dubuque	15	Marshall	3	Woodbury	10
Emmet	0	Mills	2	Worth	2
Fayette	2	Mitchell	2	Wright	2

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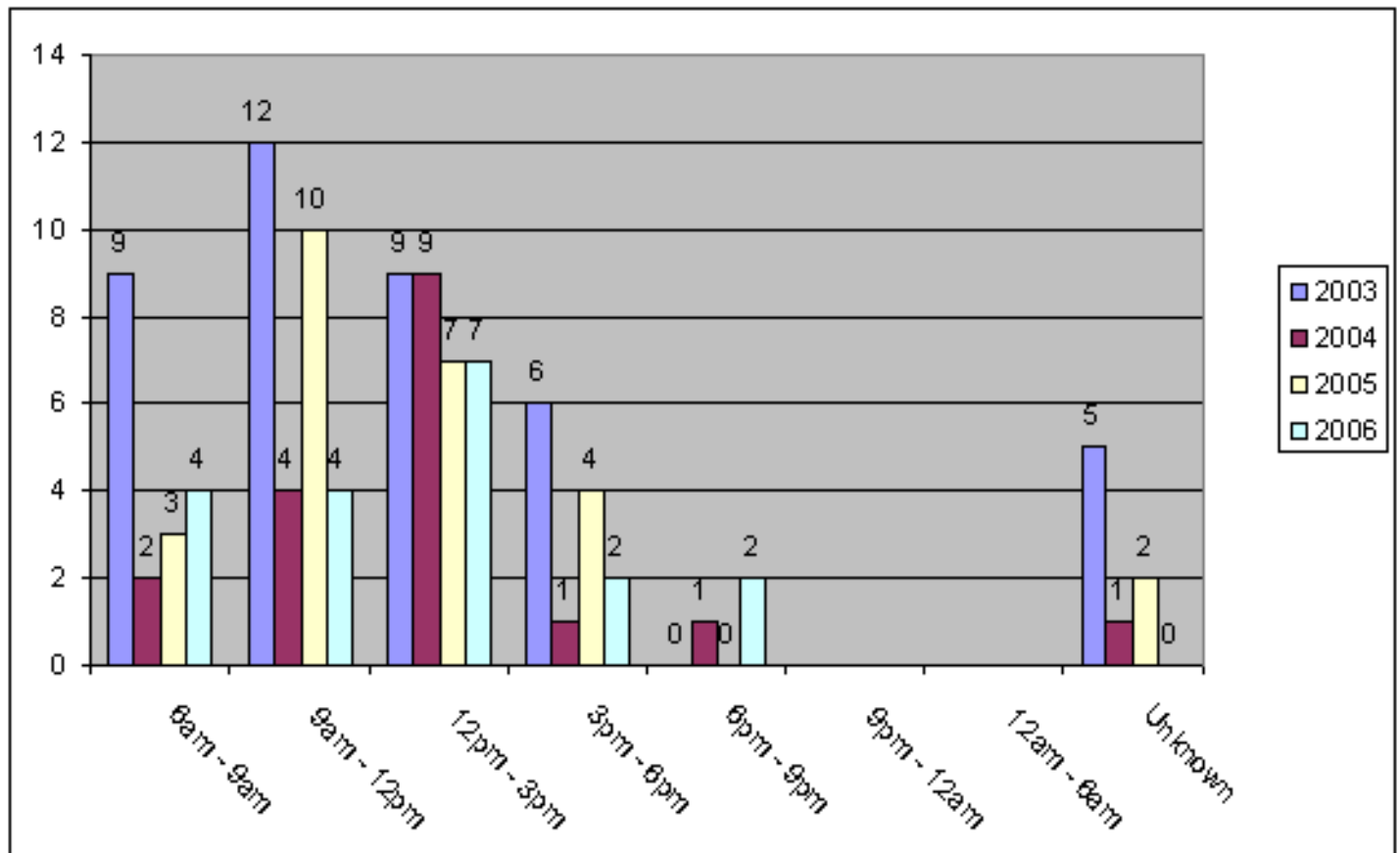
Hunting Incidents By Month



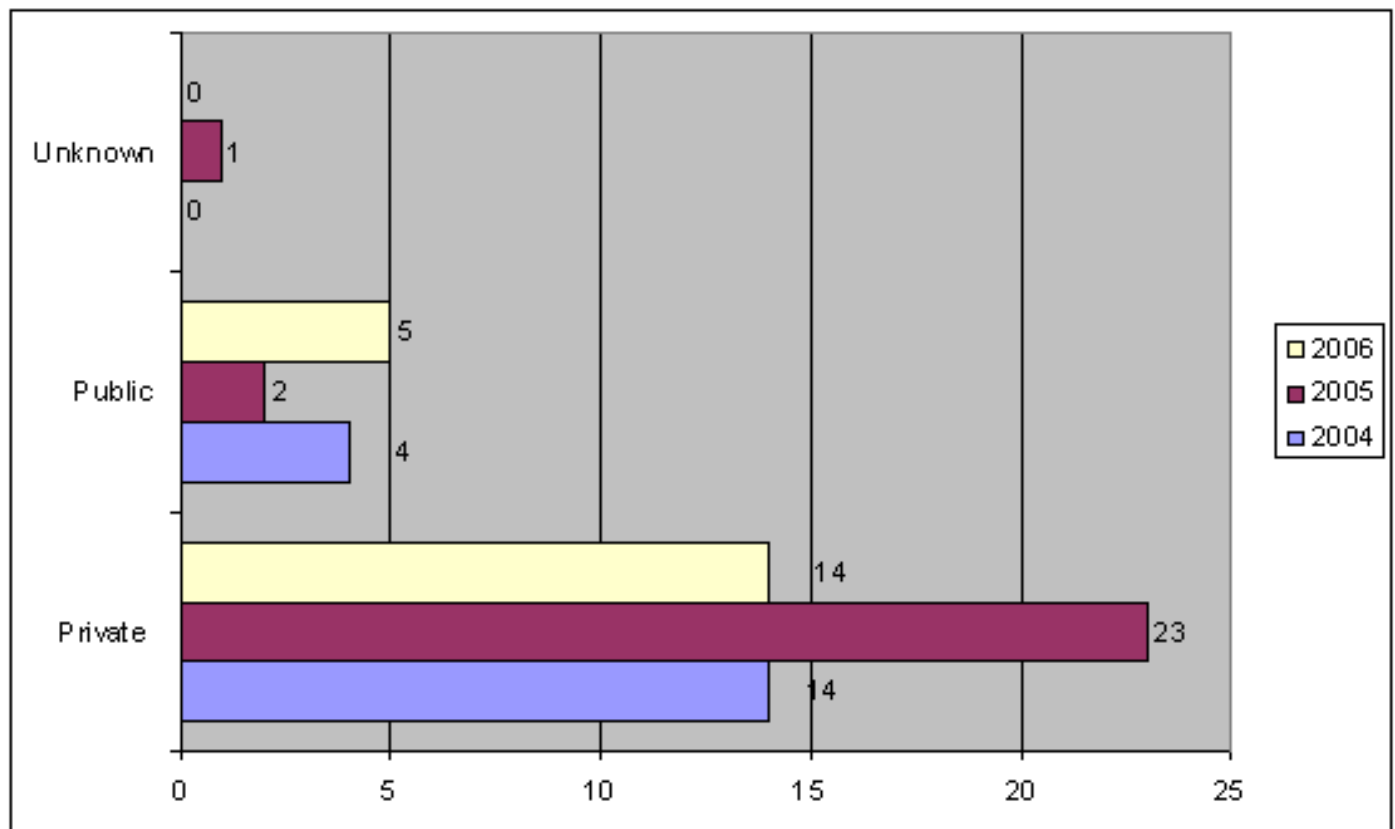
Hunting Incidents By Day of Week



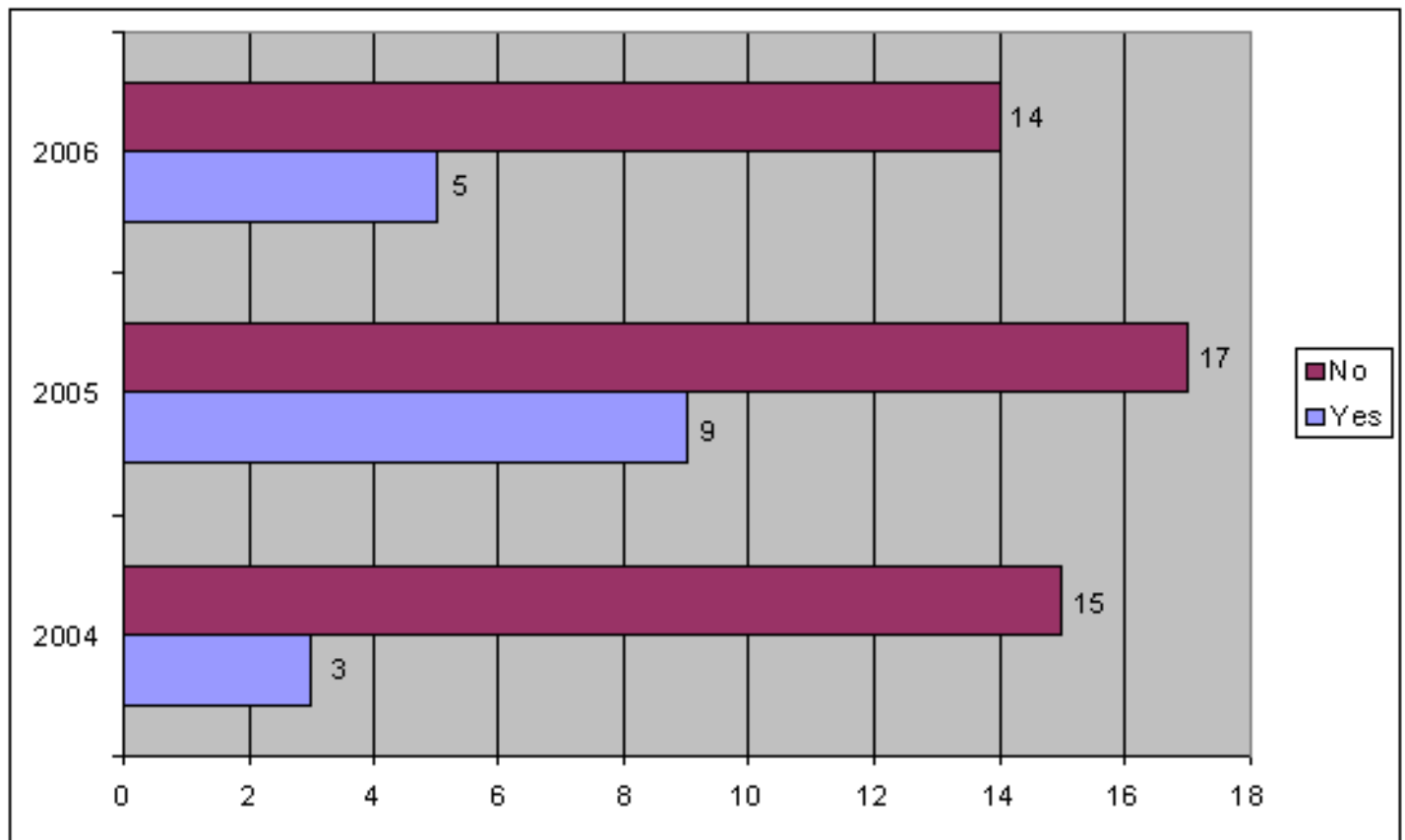
Hunting Incidents By Time of Day



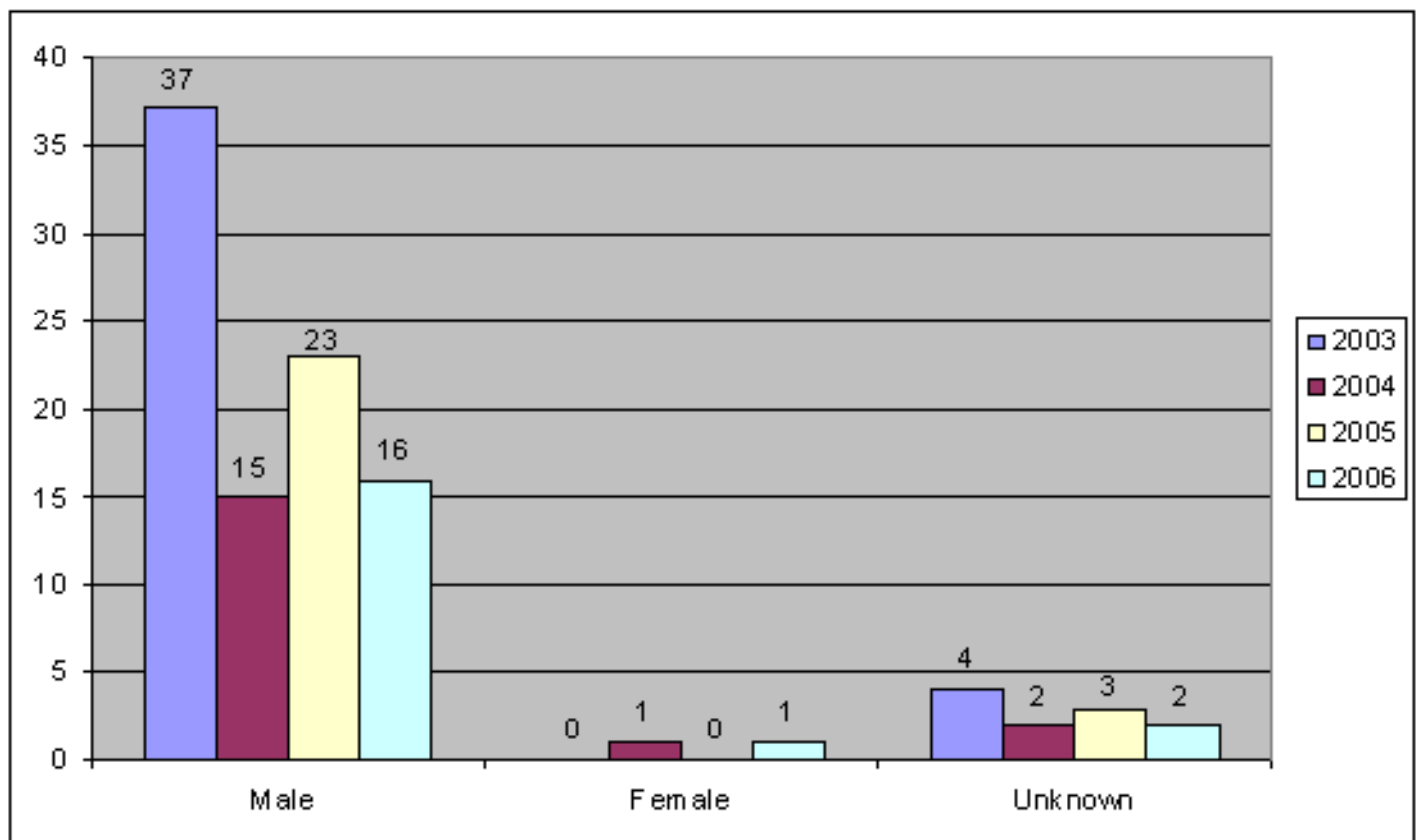
Hunting Incidents By Land Specification



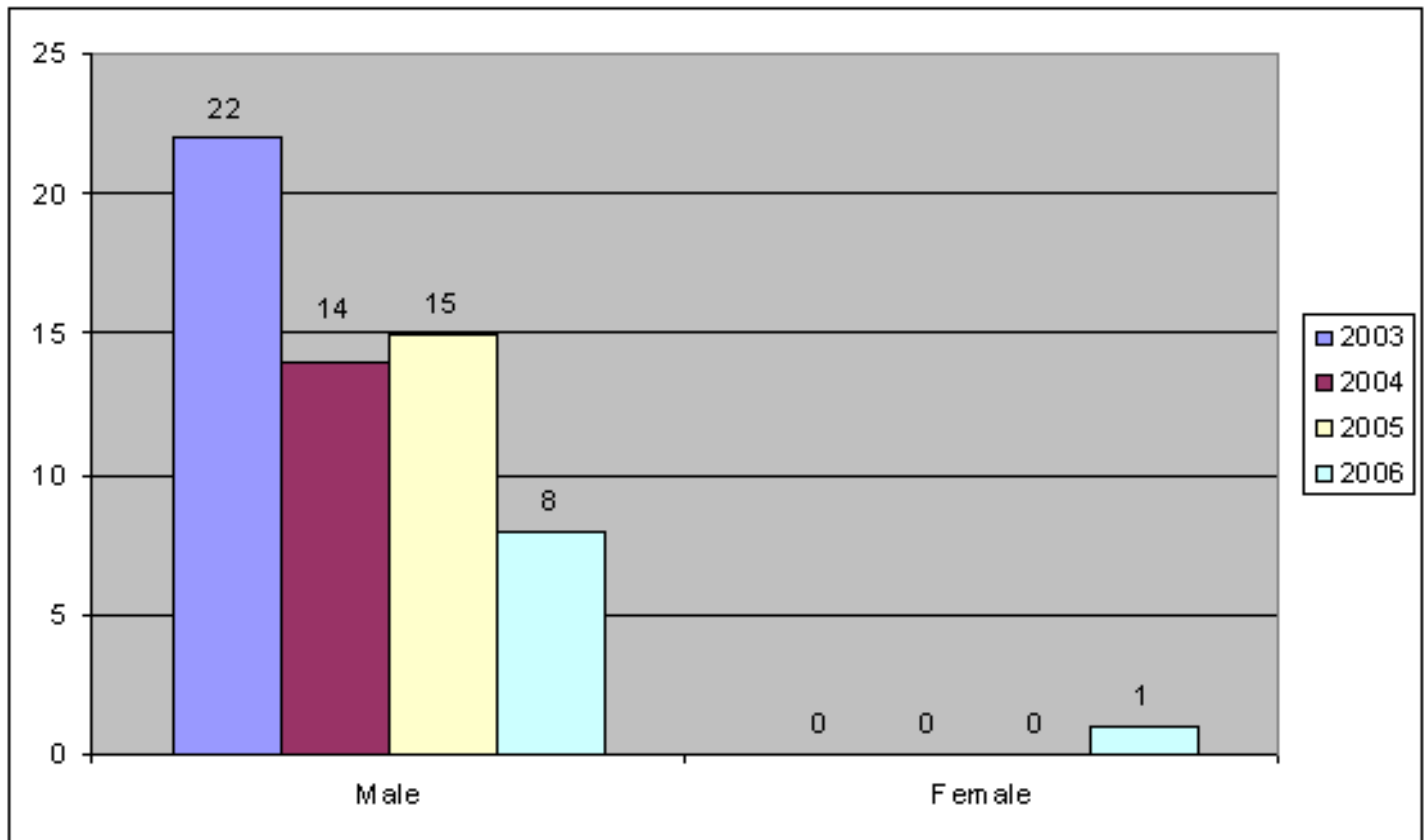
Hunting Incidents Self Inflicted



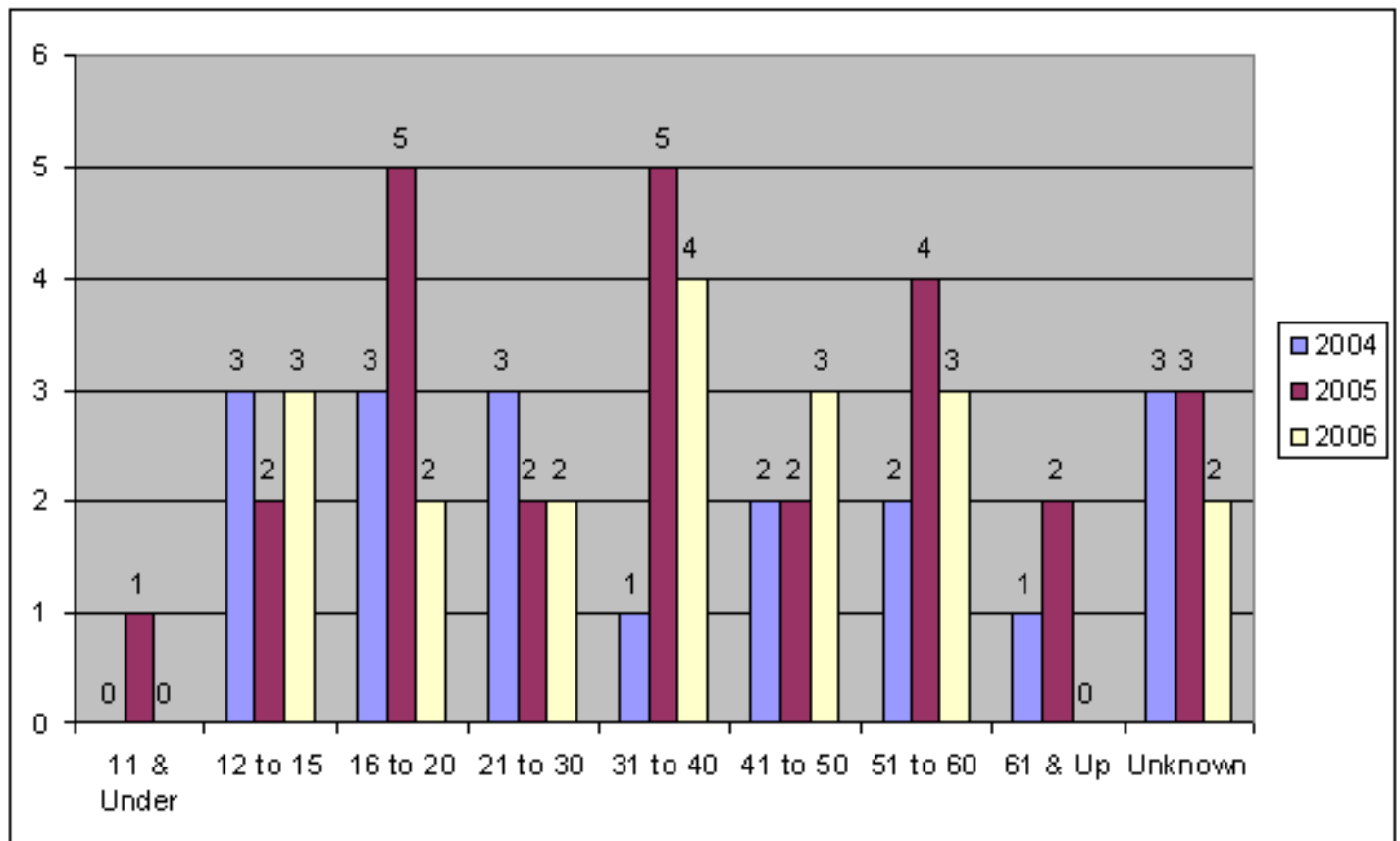
Hunting Incidents By Shooter Gender



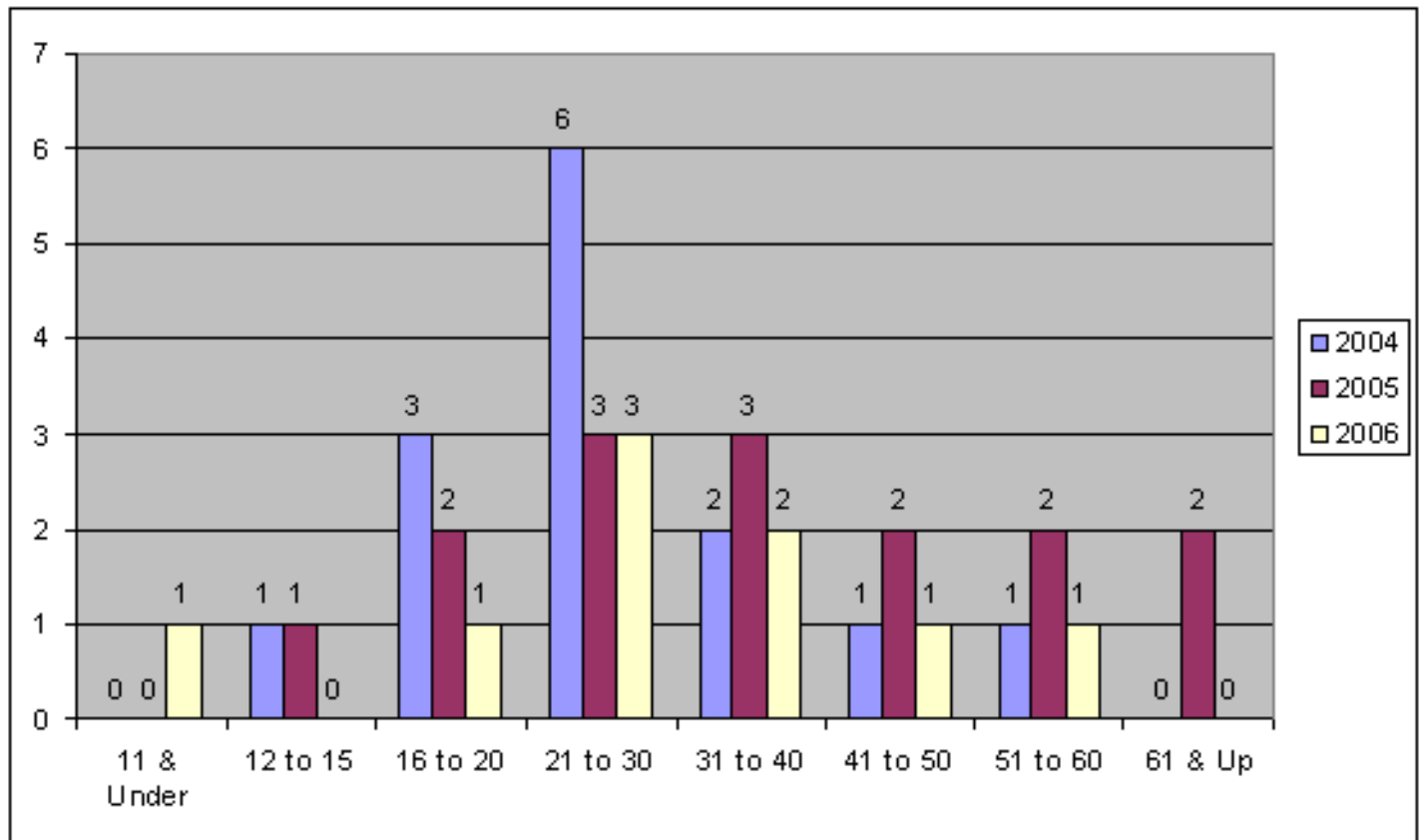
Hunting Incidents By Victim Gender



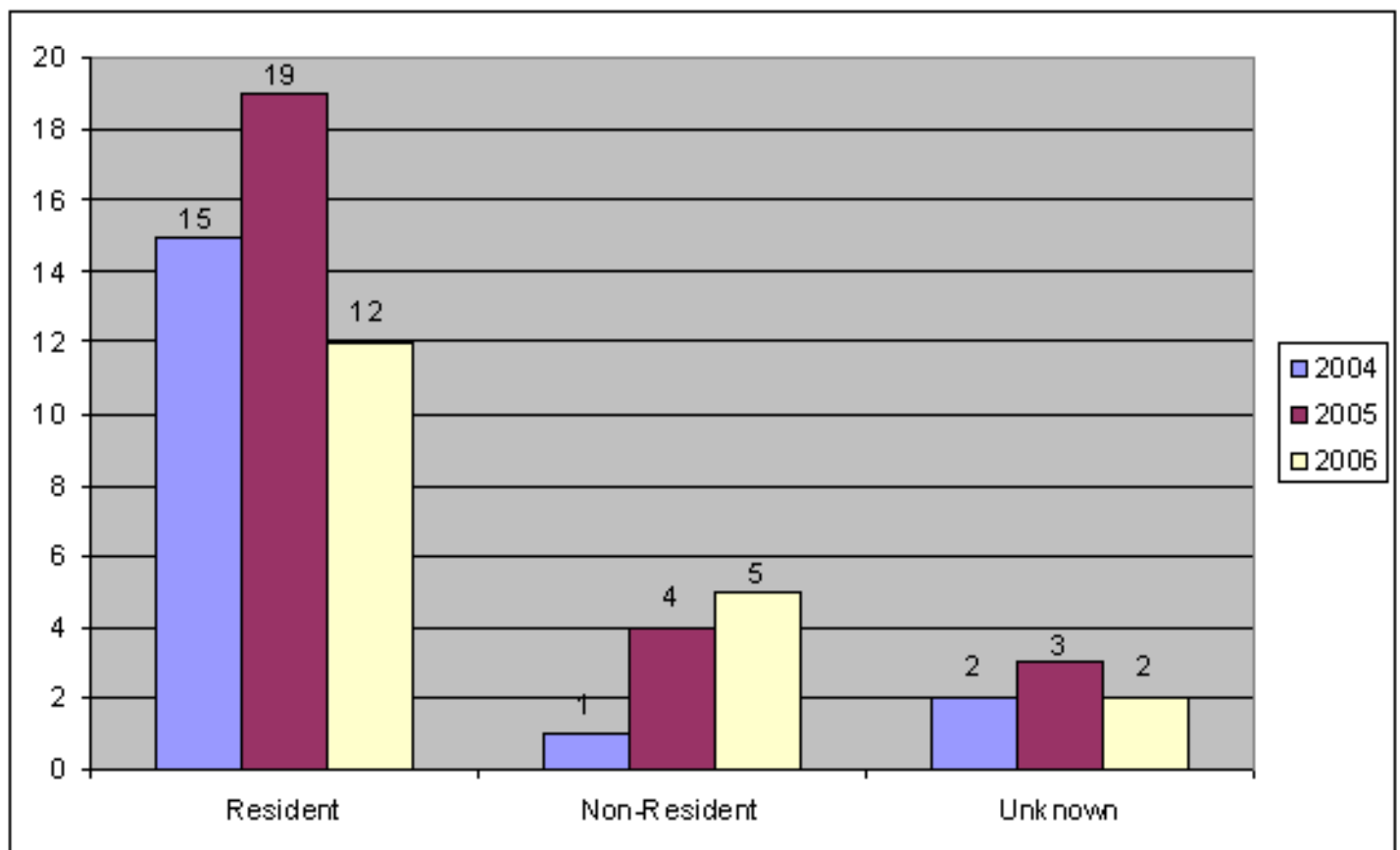
Hunting Incidents By Shooter Age



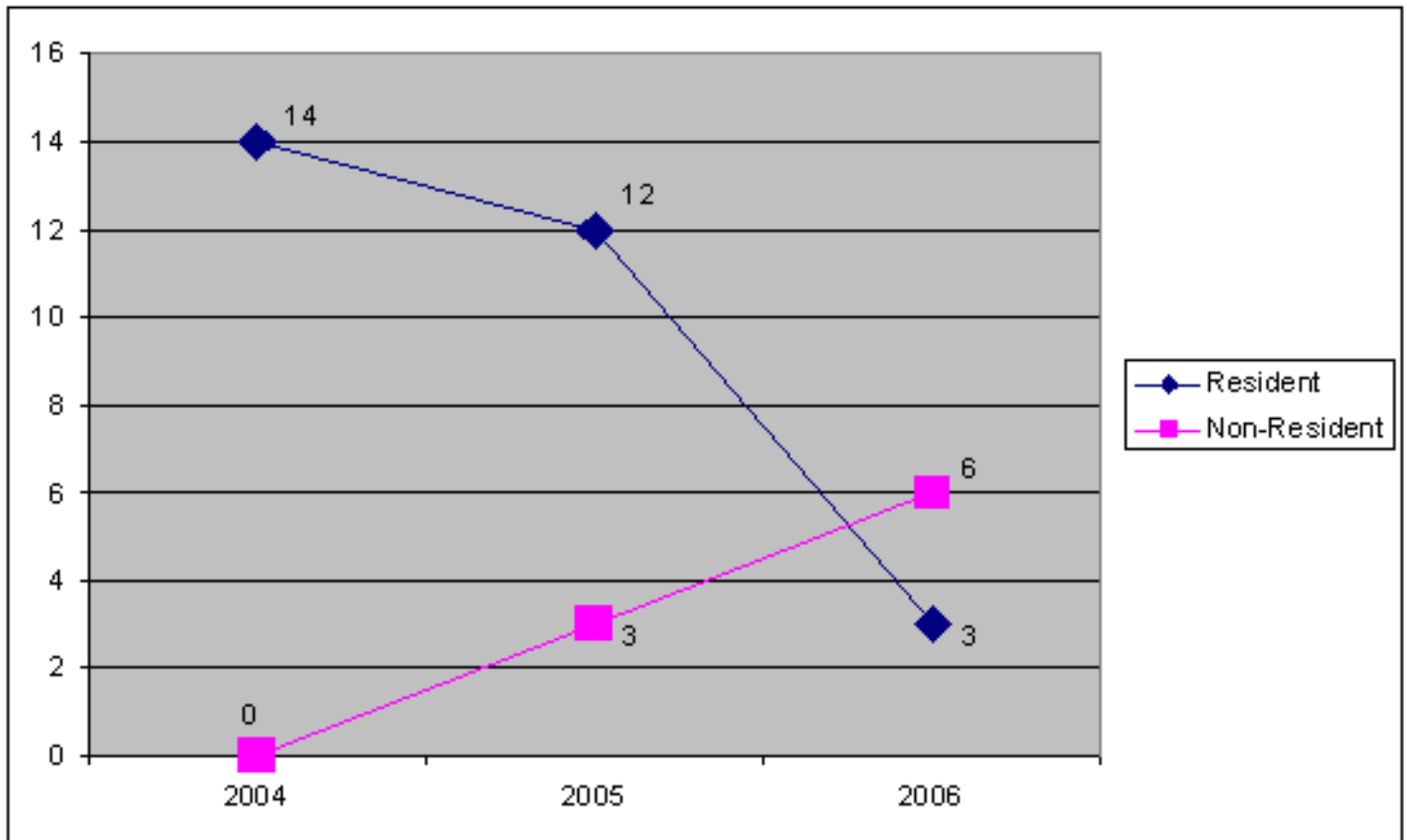
Hunting Incidents By Victim Age



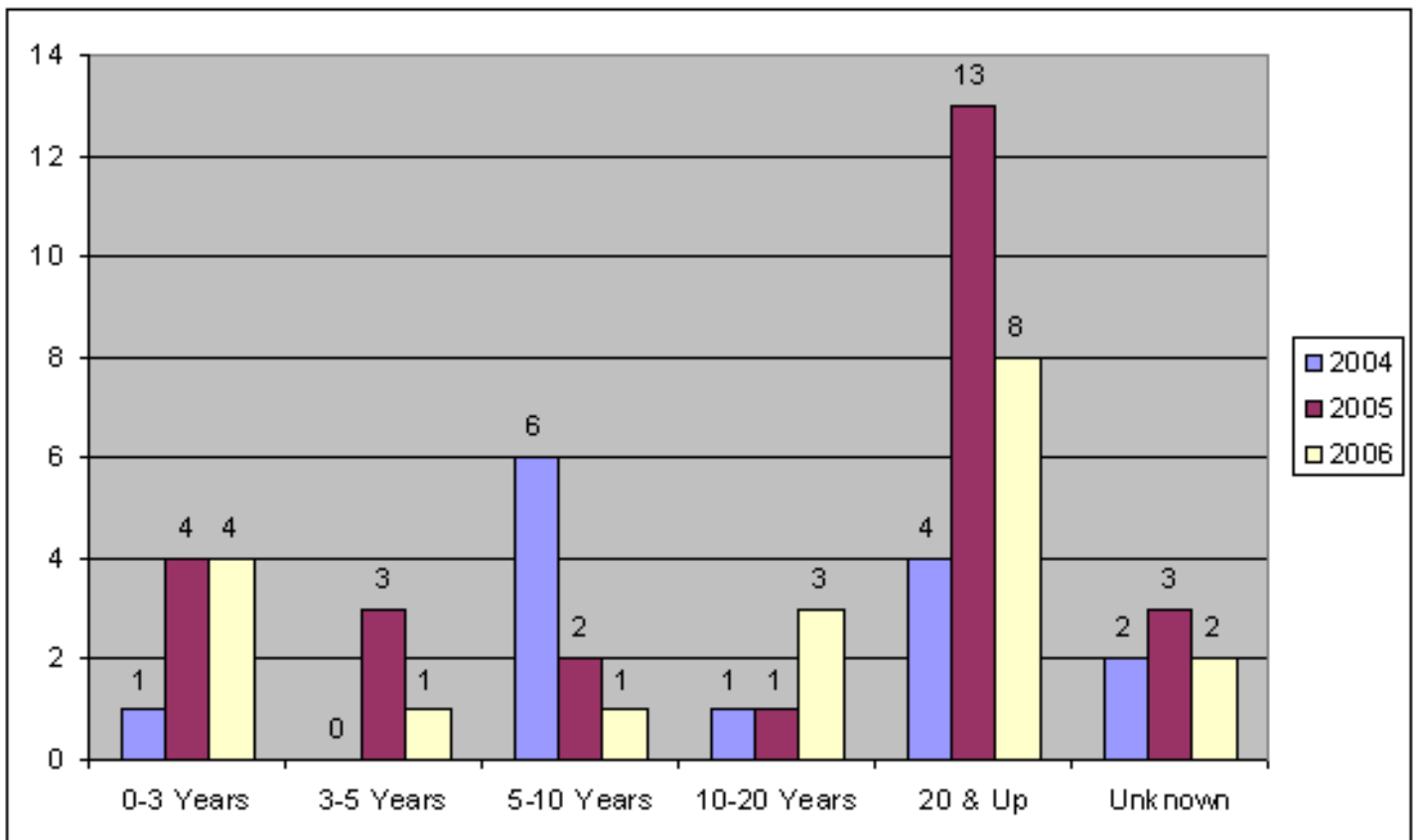
Hunting Incidents By Shooter Residency



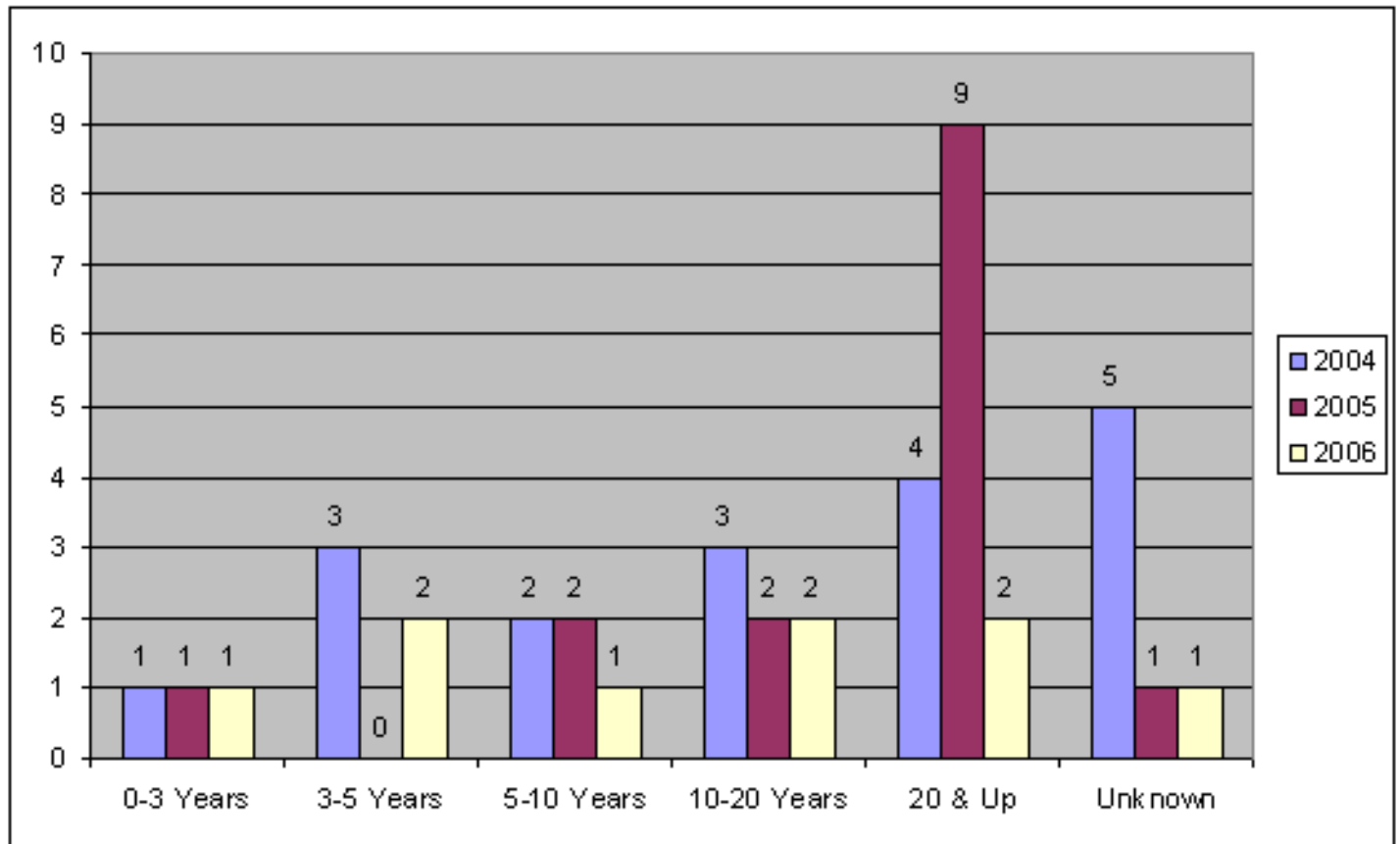
Hunting Incidents By Victim Residency



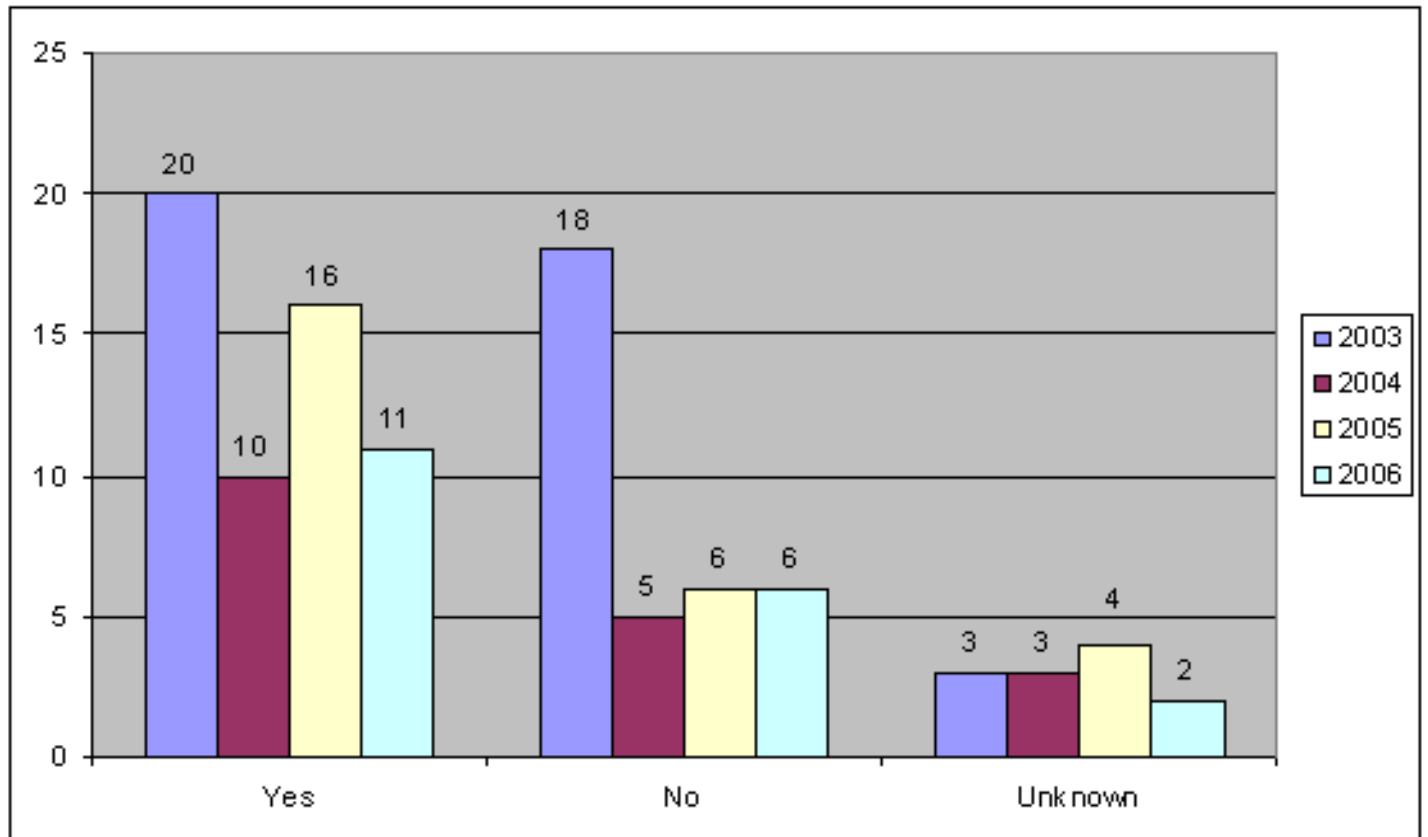
Hunting Incidents By Shooter Experience



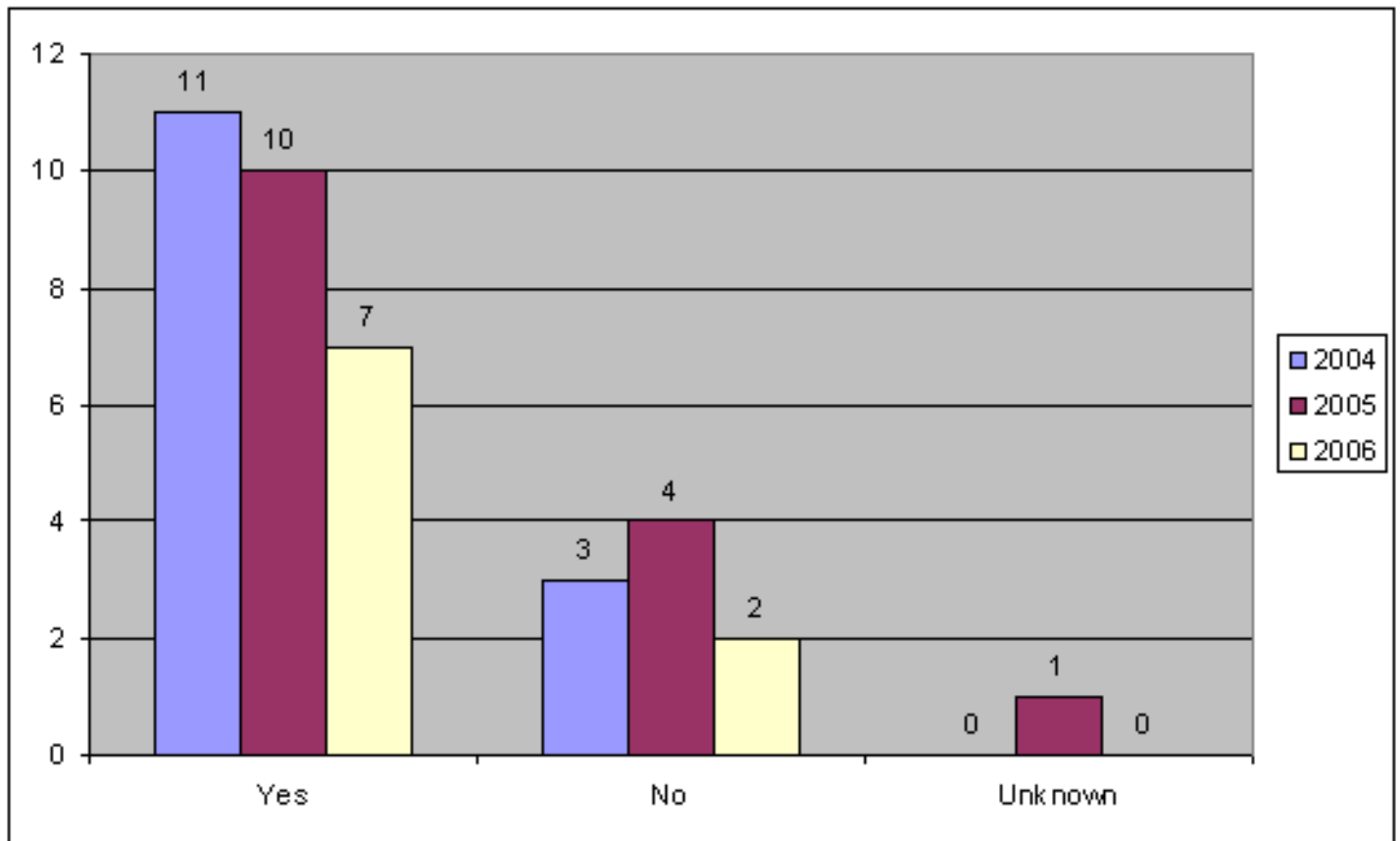
Hunting Incidents By Victim Experience



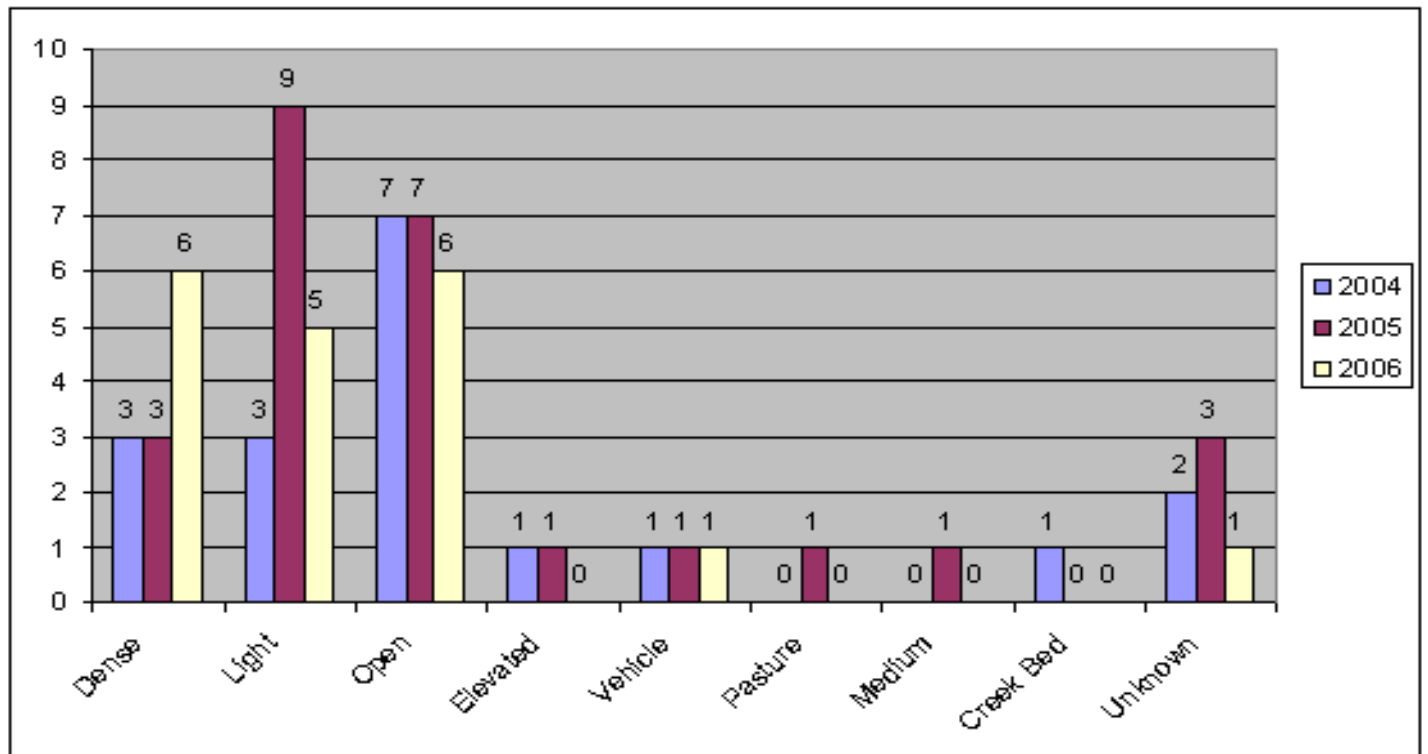
Hunting Incidents By Shooter Hunter Education Certification



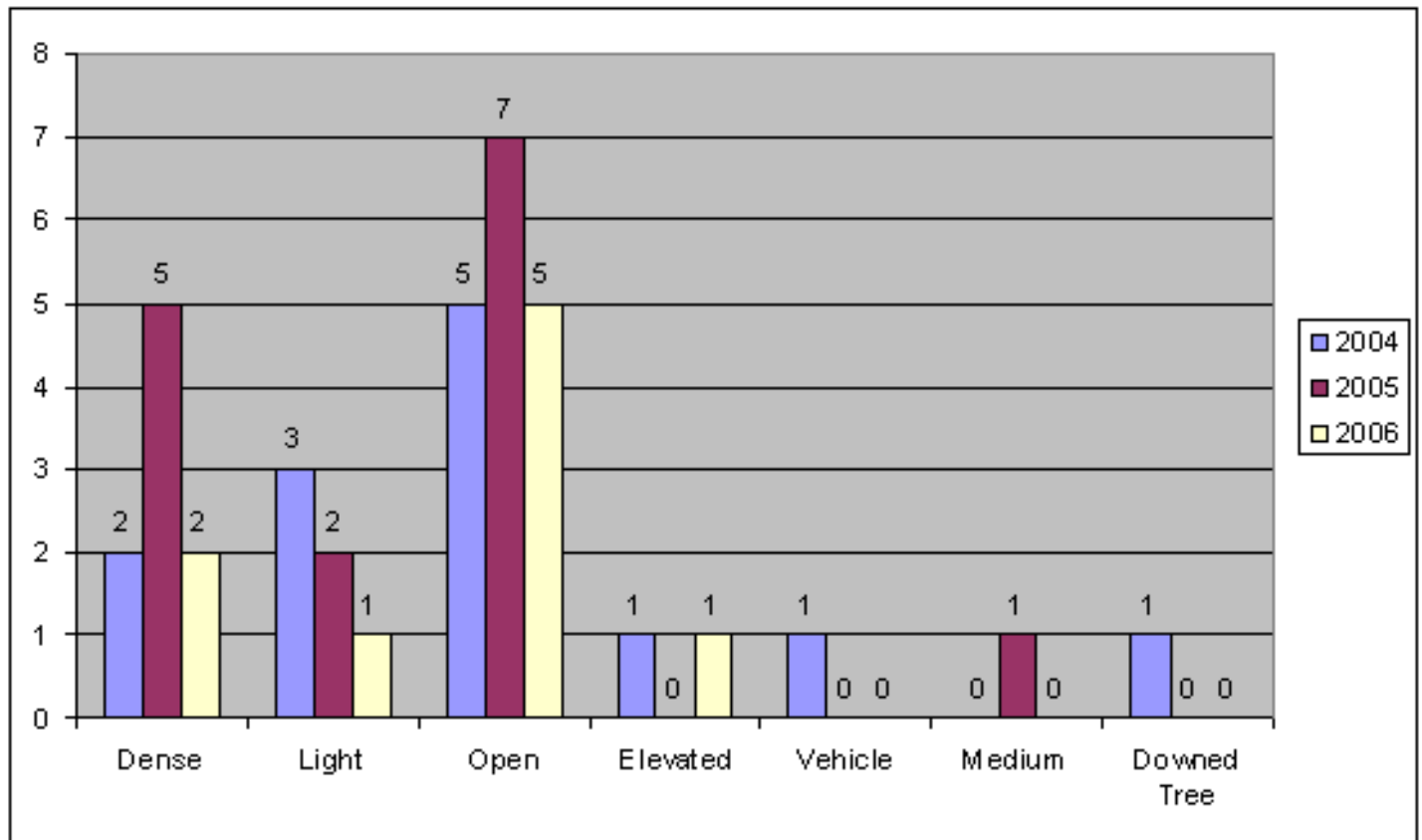
Hunting Incidents By Victim Hunter Education Certification



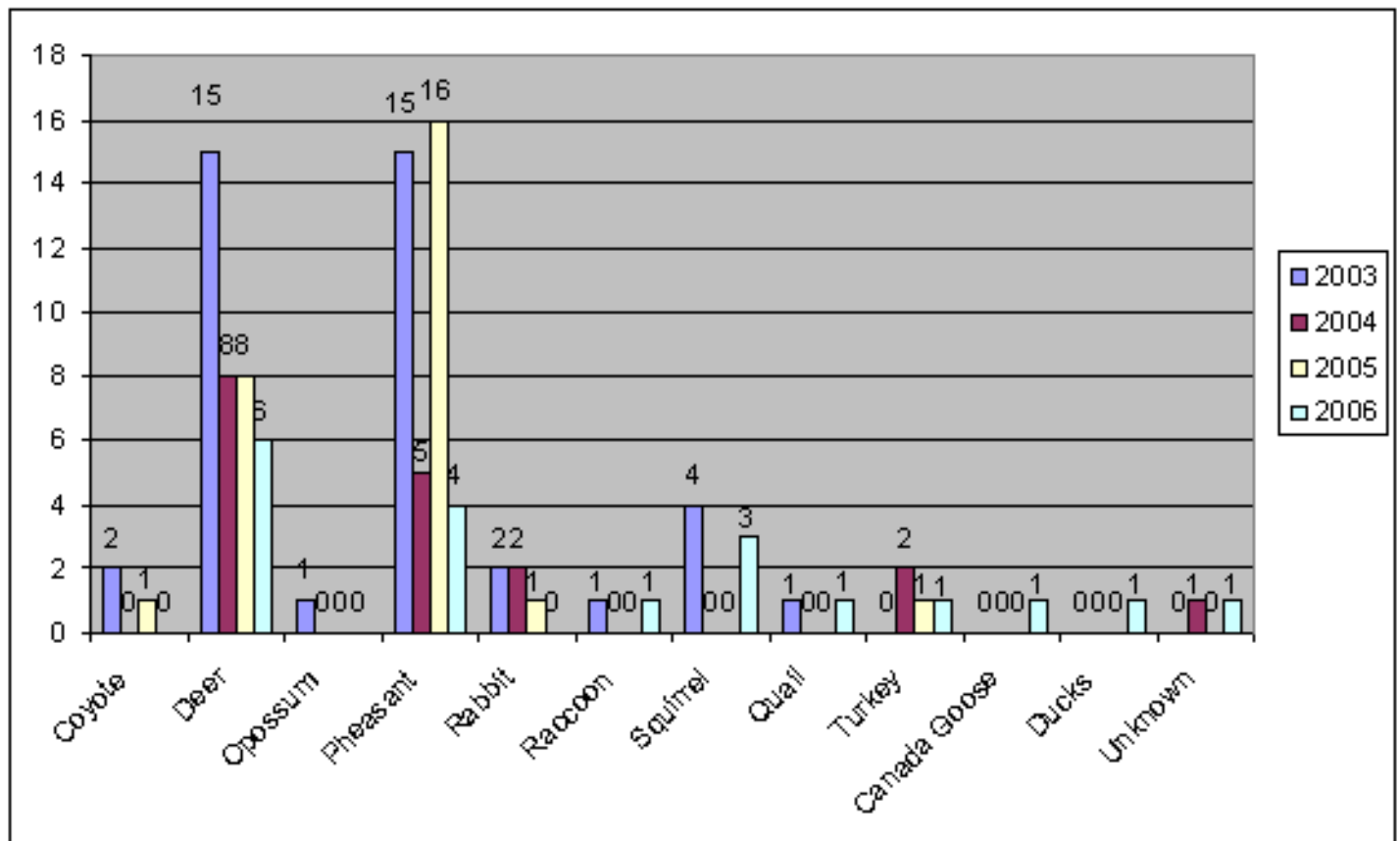
Hunting Incidents By Shooter Location



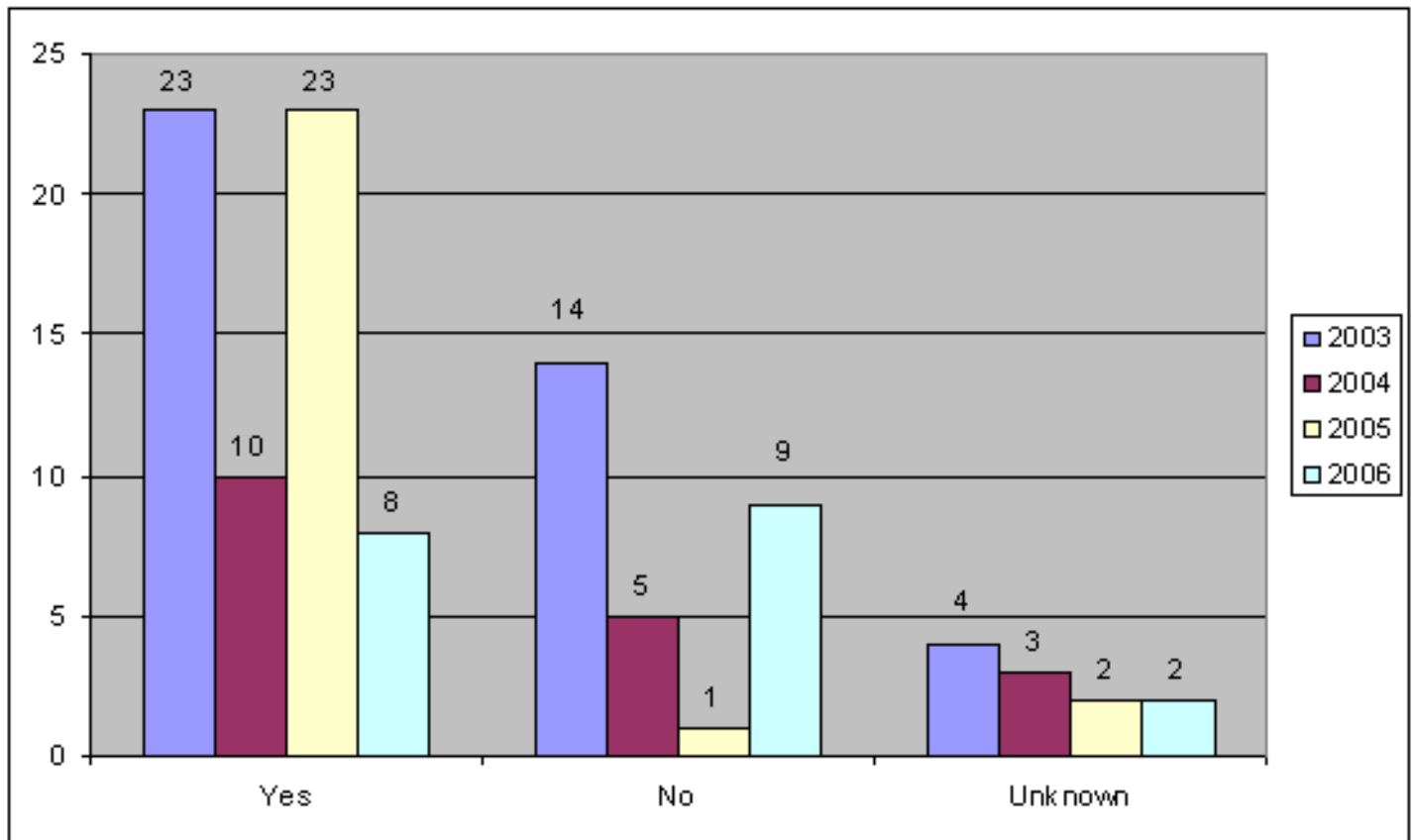
Hunting Incidents By Victim Location



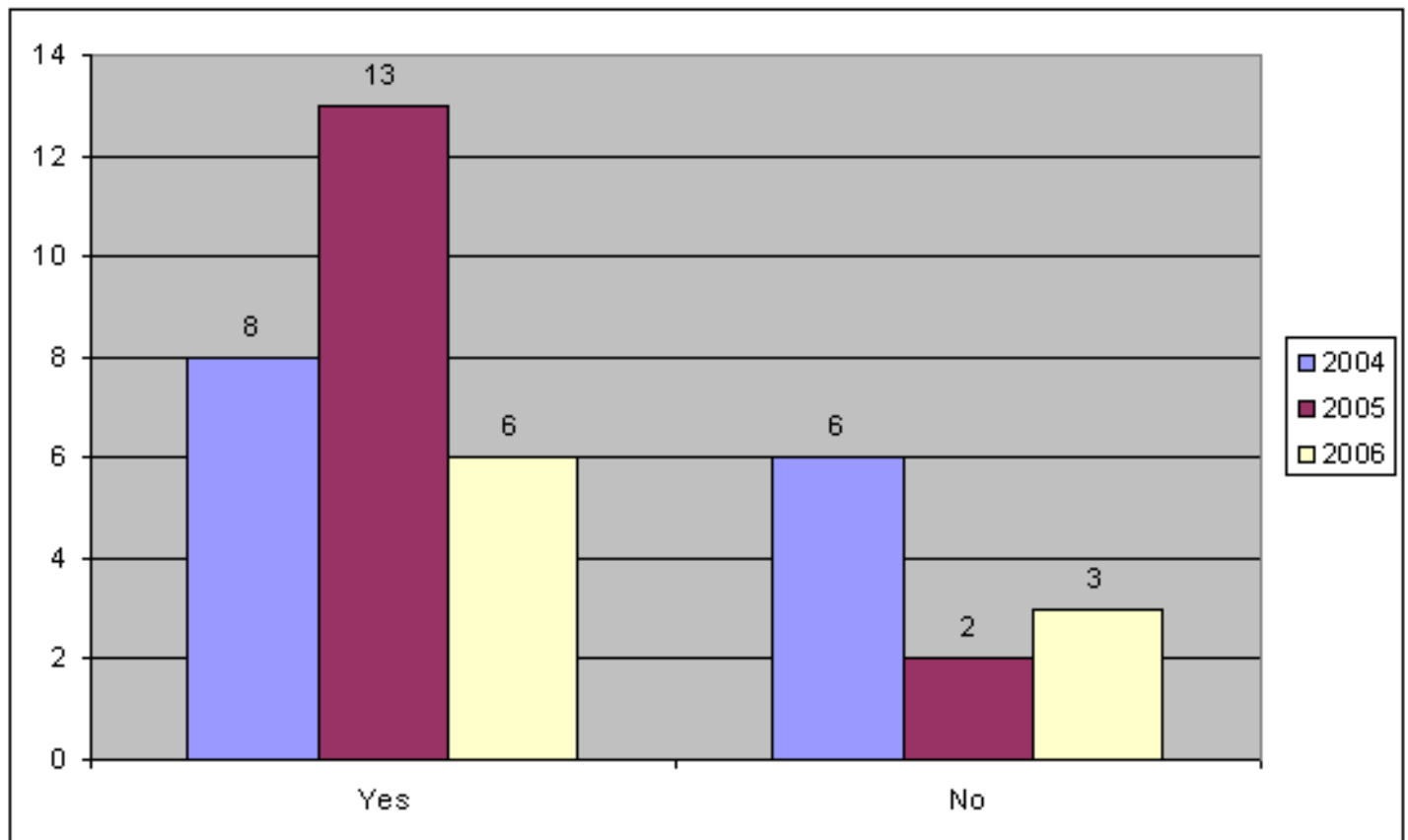
Hunting Incidents By Animal Hunted



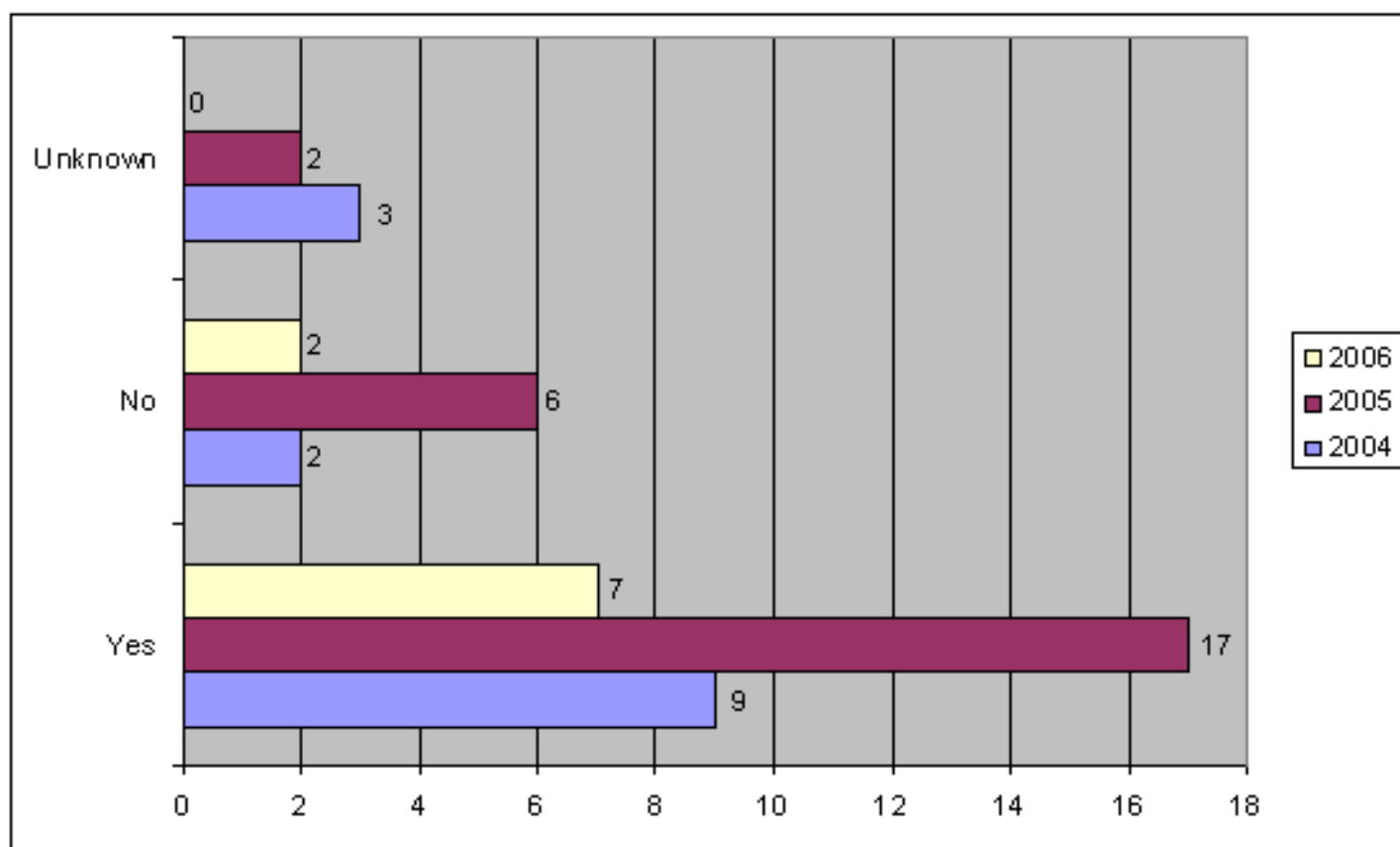
Hunting Incidents By Shooter Wearing Blaze Orange



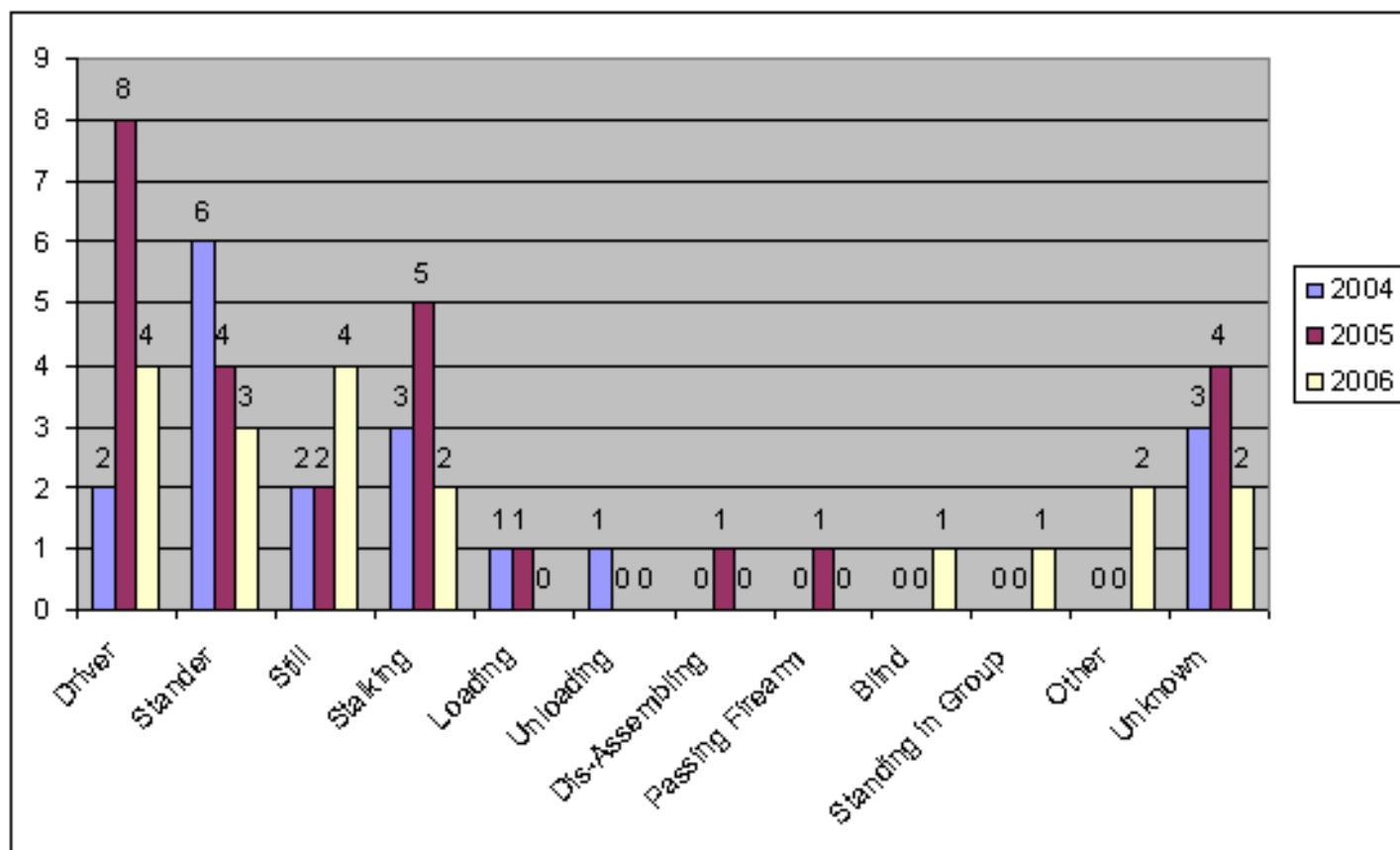
Hunting Incidents By Victim Wearing Blaze Orange



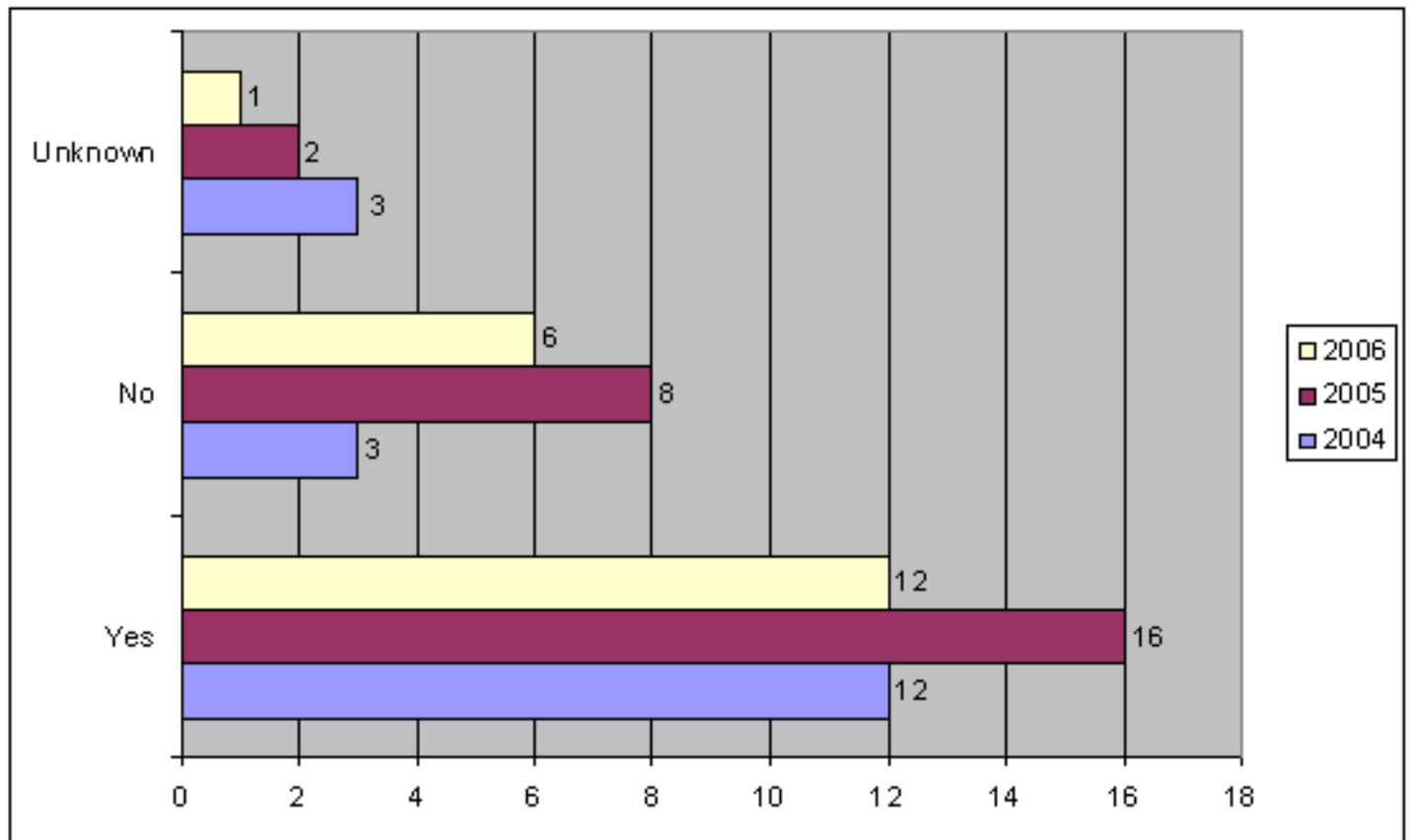
Hunting Incidents By Shooter Could See Victim



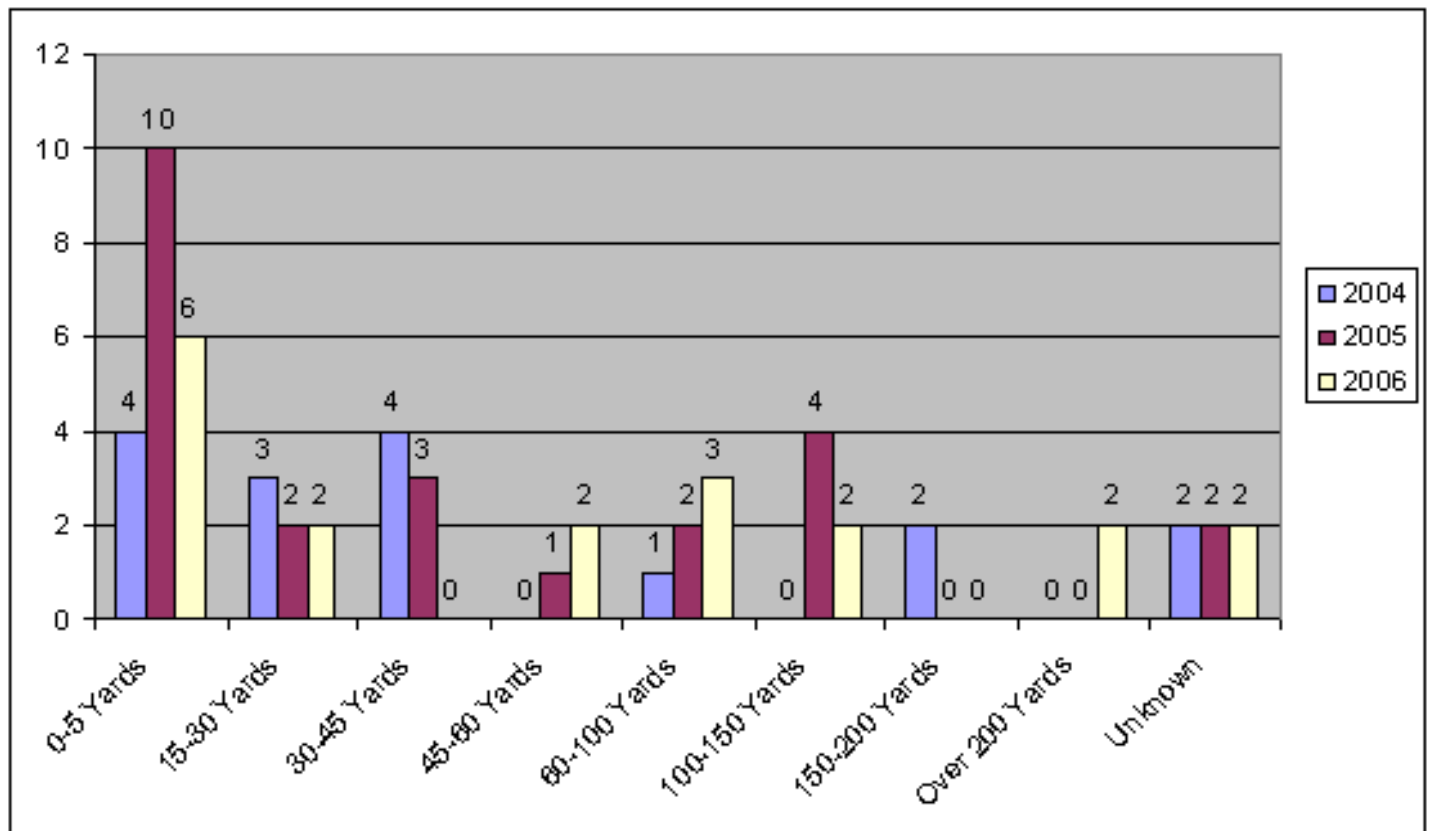
Hunting Incidents By Shooter Activity



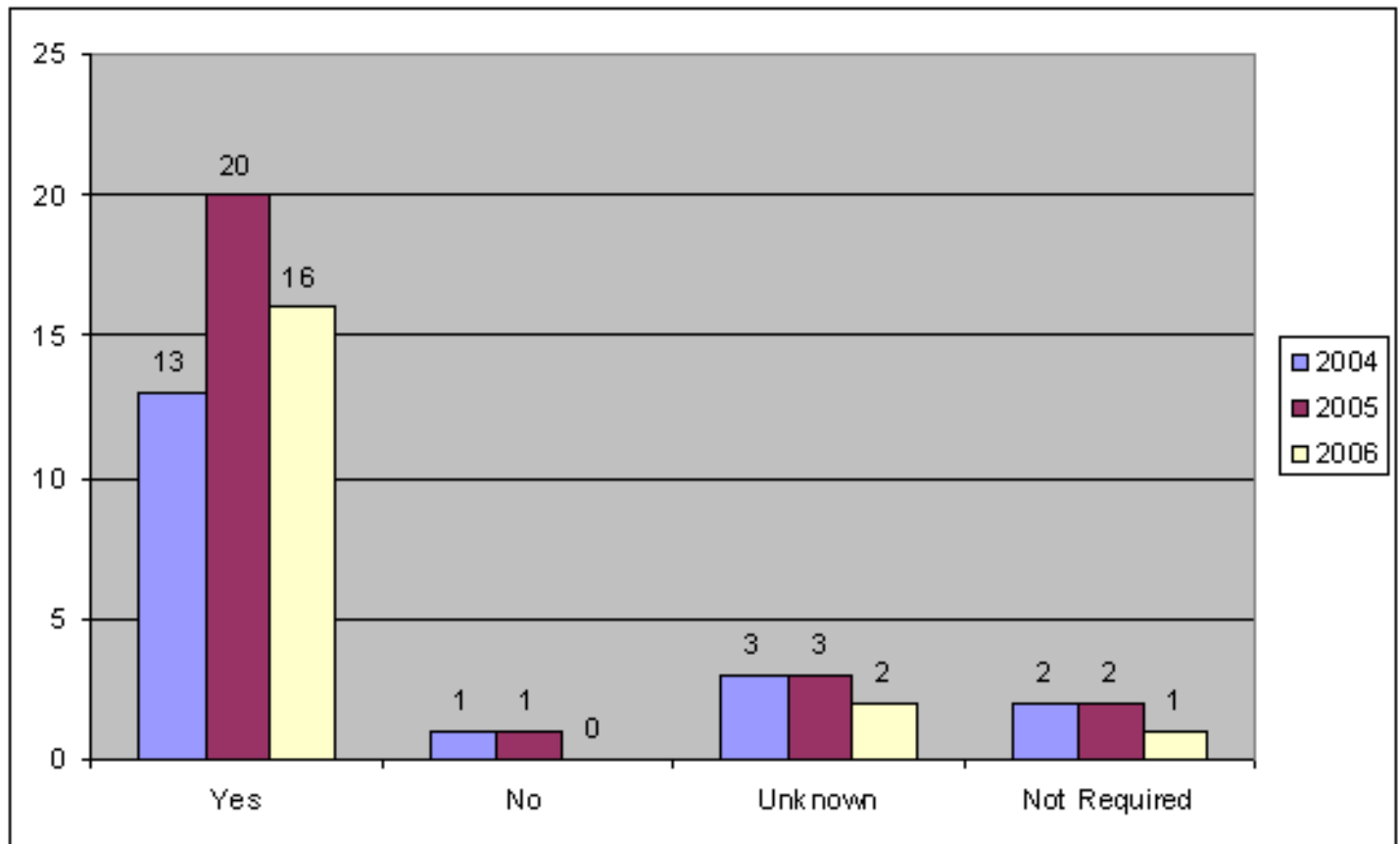
Hunting Incidents By Shooter Attempting to Bag Game



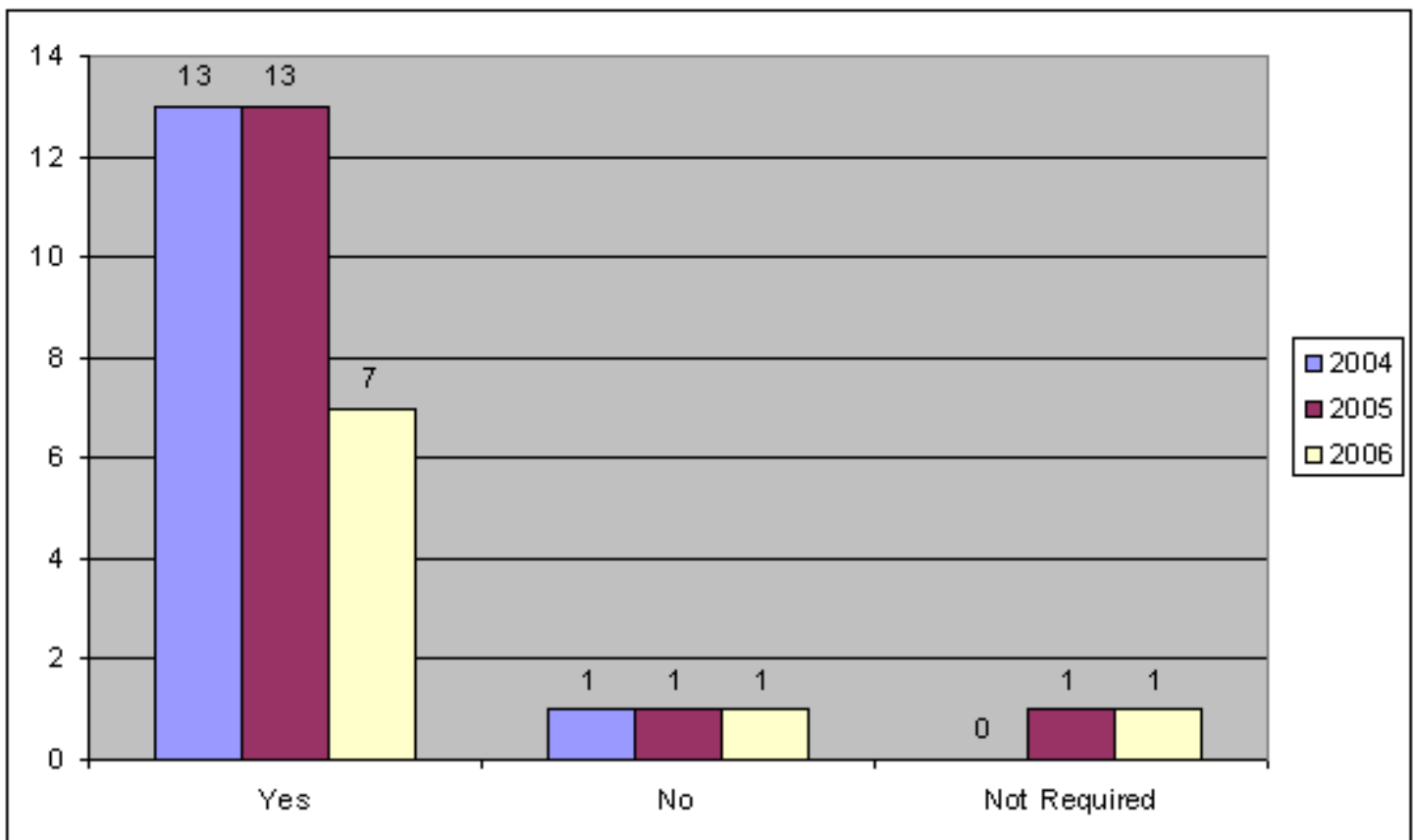
Hunting Incidents By Distance From Muzzle



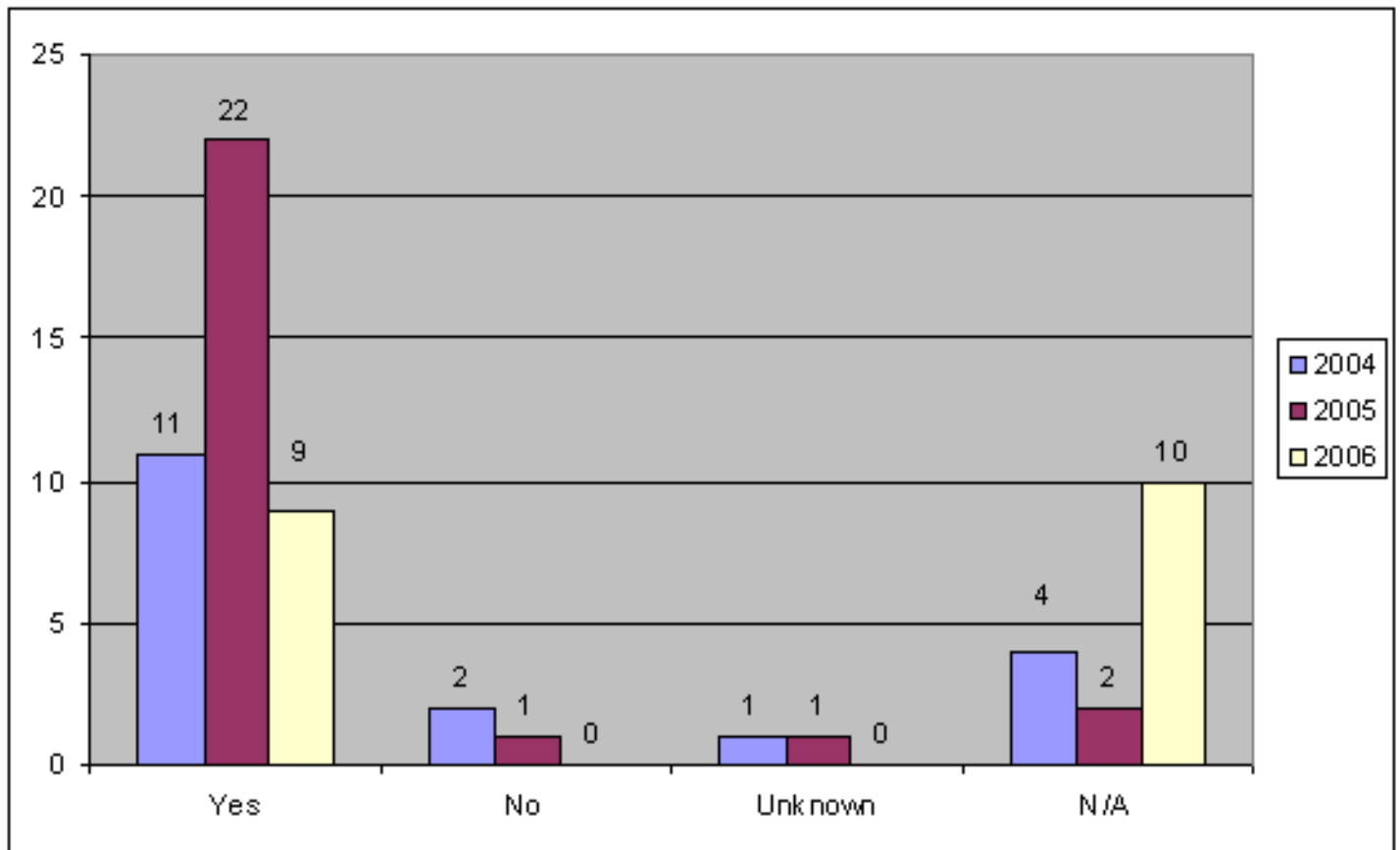
Hunting Incidents By Shooter Licensed



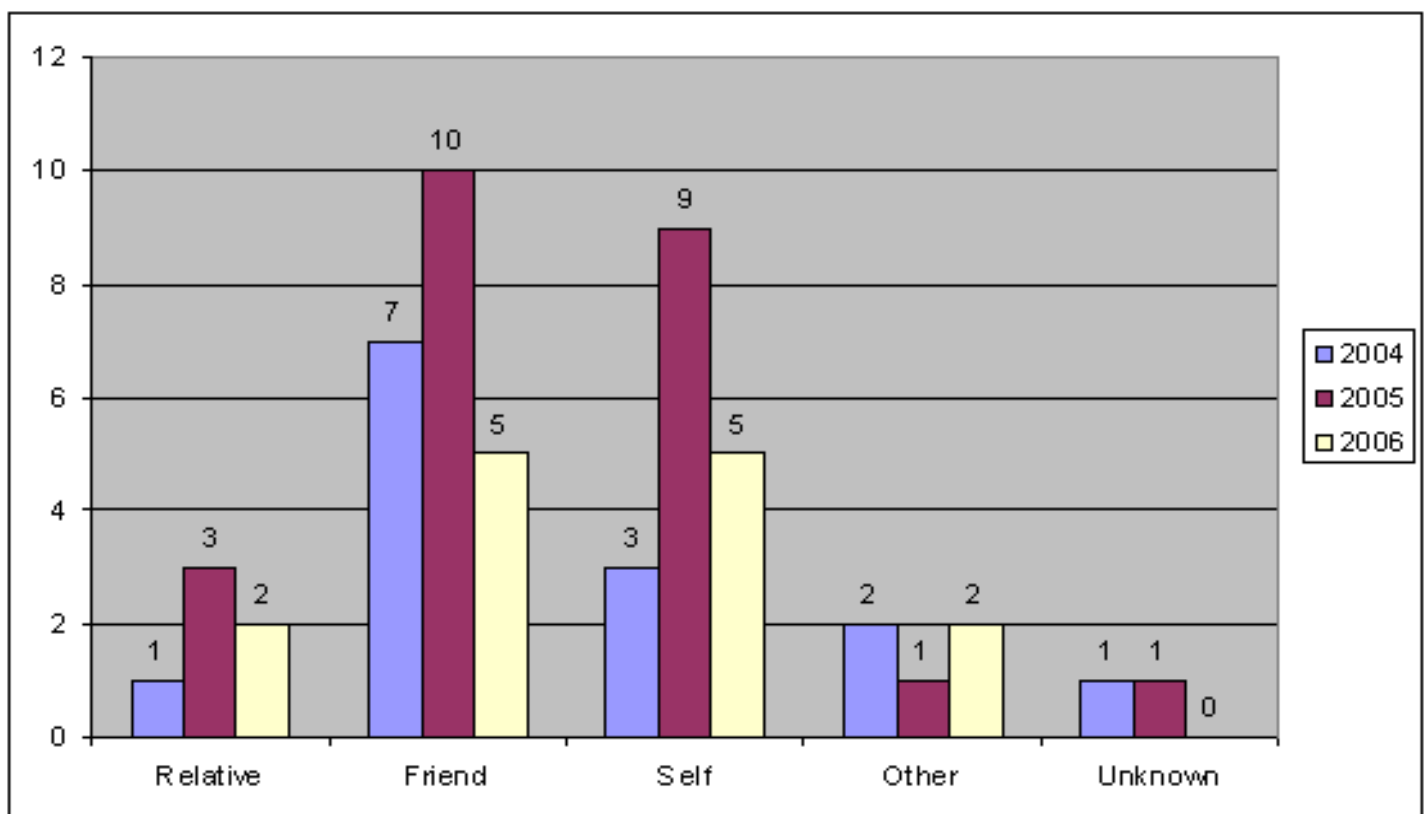
Hunting Incidents By Victim Licensed



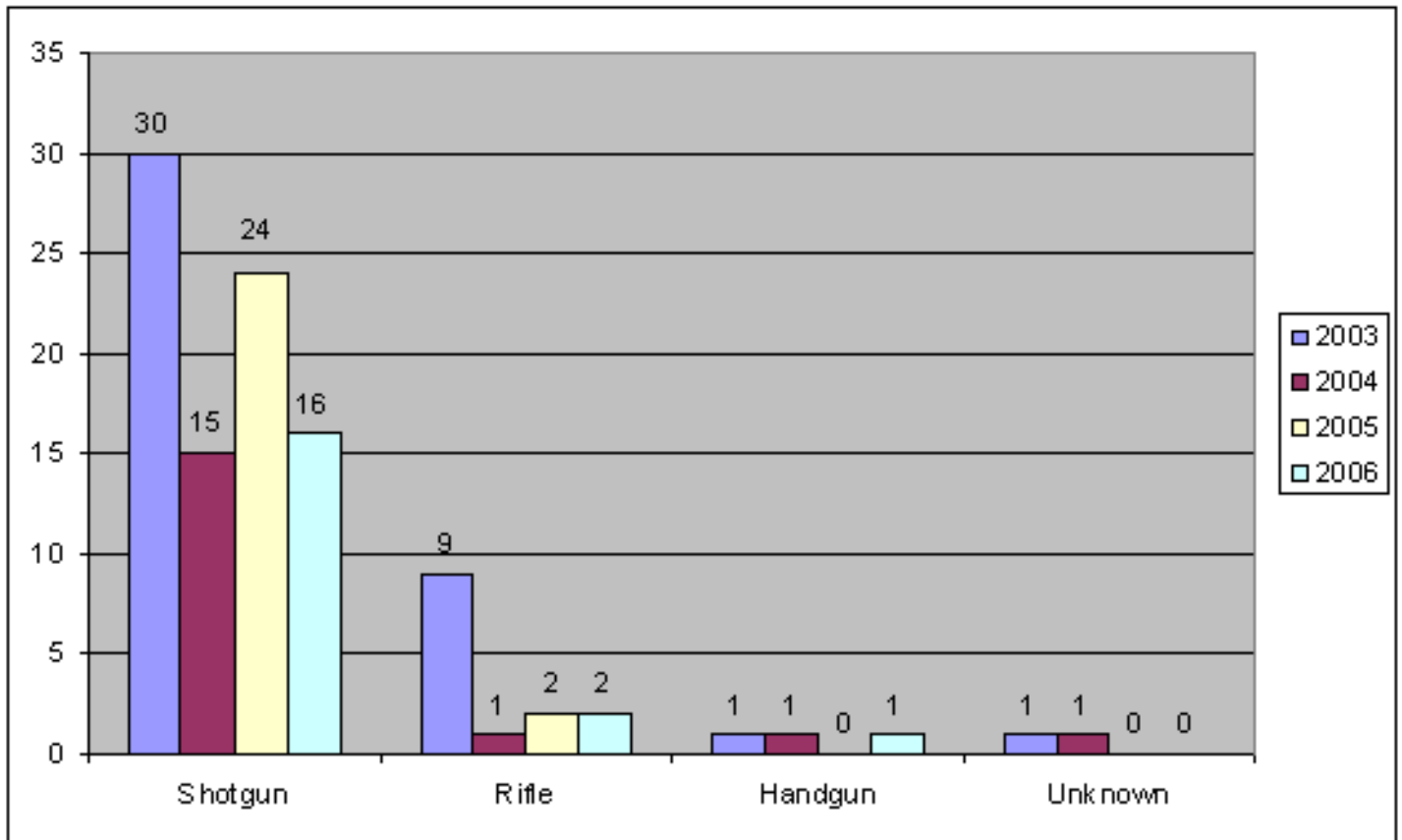
Hunting Incidents By Same Hunting Party



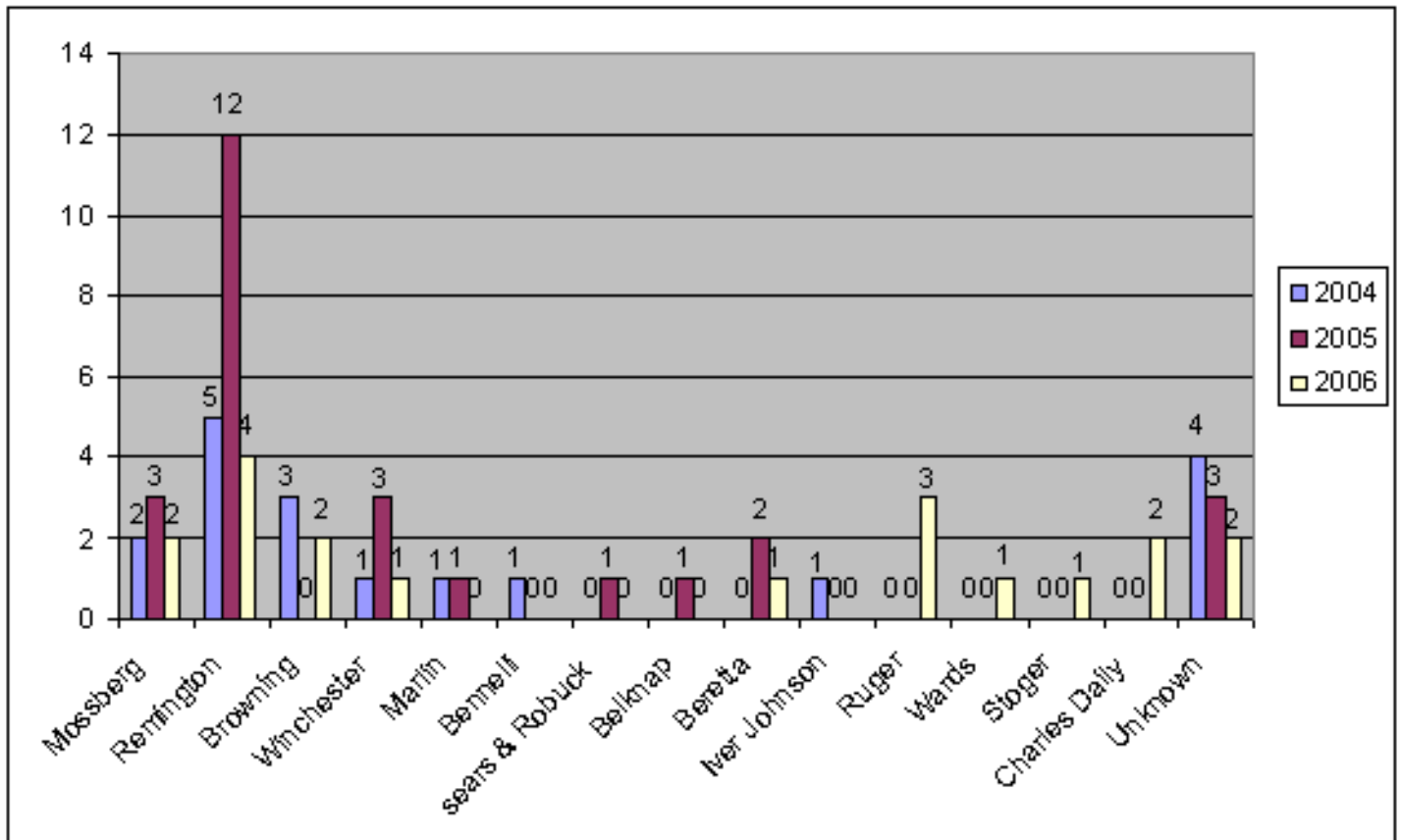
Hunting Incidents By Shooter's Relationship to Victim



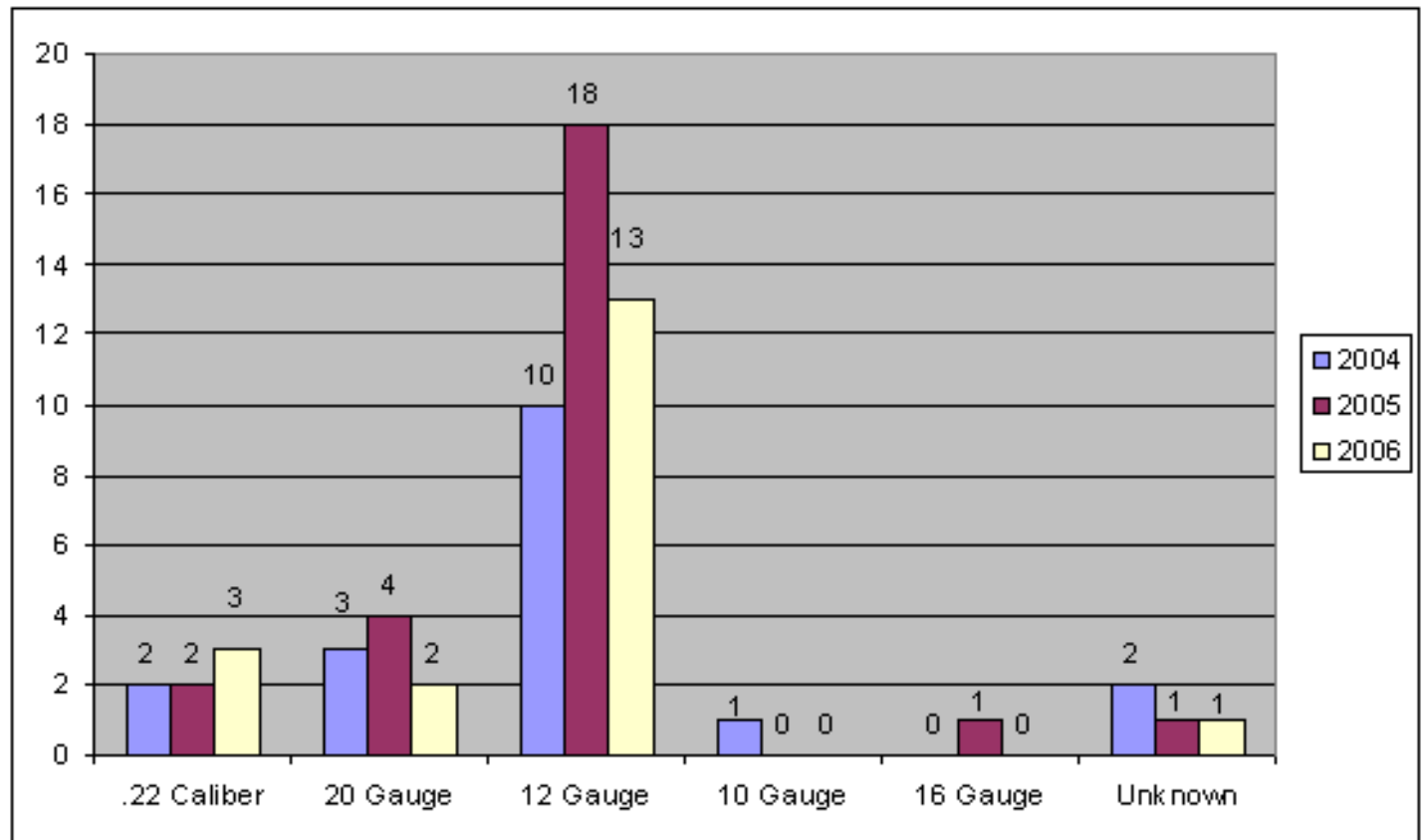
Hunting Incidents By Shooter's Firearm Type



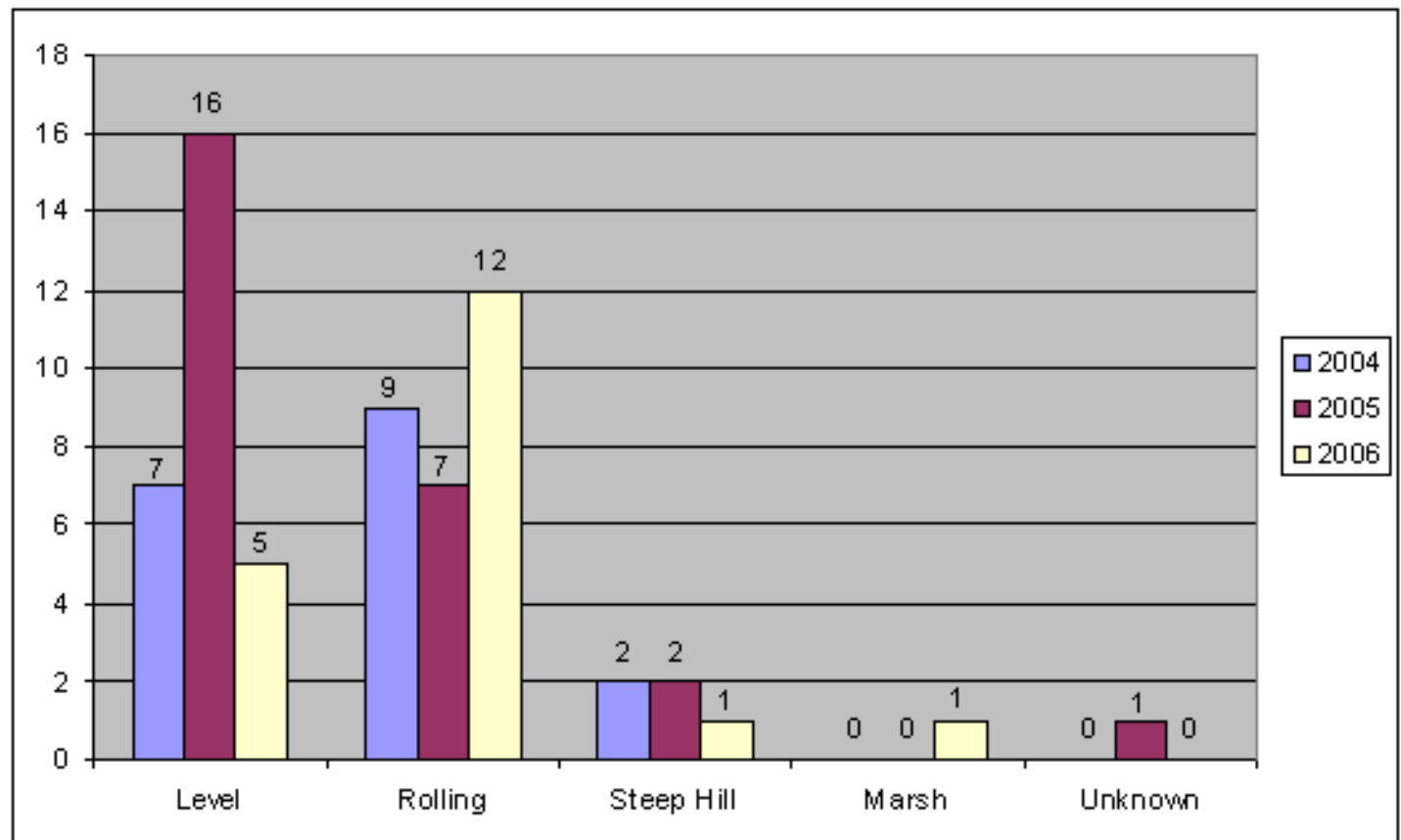
Hunting Incidents By Shooter's Firearm Make



Hunting Incidents By Shooter's Firearm Caliber/Gauge



Hunting Incidents By Topography



Hunting Incidents By Contributing Factors

	2006	2005	2004	2003
Game Ran/Flew Between Shooter and Victim	9	7	7	3
Victim out of Sight of Shooter	5	0	6	11
Shooter Swinging on Game	4	9	5	5
Careless or Reckless	4	2	3	4
Ricochet	3	0	0	0
Failed to Maintain Safe Zone of Fire	1	1	0	2
Failure to Control Muzzle Direction	1	3	0	0
Shooter Stumbled & Fell	1	3	1	6
Failure to Engage Safety	1	2	0	0
Firearm Fell/Insecure Rest	1	3	0	1
Failure to Look Beyond Target	1	0	0	0
Finger in Trigger Guard	1	0	0	0
Other	1	0	0	0
Low Visibility	0	3	0	0
Trigger Caught on Object	0	2	1	1
Obstruction in Barrel	0	2	0	1
Victim Mistaken for Game	0	3	2	2
Unloading	0	1	1	2
Loading	0	1	1	2
Loaded Firearm in Vehicle	0	2	1	0
Inexperience	0	1	0	0
Shooting too Close to Residence	0	0	1	0
Poor Gun Design	0	0	1	0
Victim was not Wearing Blaze Orange	0	0	1	0
Firearm Malfunction	0	0	0	1



Hunting Incidents By Type of Injury

	2006	2005	2004	2003
Pellets to Face	4	1	0	4
Pellets to Neck	3	0	0	0
Pellets to Chest	3	0	0	0
Pellets to Hand	3	0	0	0
Pellets to Arms	3	1	1	1
Pellets to Back	2	0	0	0
Pellets to Calf	2	0	0	0
Slug to Finger	1	0	0	0
Slug to Thigh	1	0	0	0
Pellets to Thigh	1	0	0	0
Slug to Wrist	1	0	0	0
Bullet to Shoulder	1	0	0	0
Slug to Leg	1	2	1	6
Pellets to Feet	1	1	0	2
Pellets to Legs	0	1	0	4
Bullet to Foot	0	2	1	2
Slug to Abdomen	0	1	0	0
Barrel Exploded - Hand Injury	0	2	0	0
Slug to Foot	0	1	2	1
Slug to Torso	0	1	1	1
Pellets to Whole Body	0	3	0	1
Pellets to Upper Body	0	8	6	5
Slug Grazed Scalp	0	0	2	0
Bullet to Leg	0	0	1	3
Slug to Neck	0	0	2	0
Slug to Groin	0	0	0	1
Bullet to Chest	0	0	0	1
Bullet to Head	0	0	0	1
Slug to Hand	0	0	0	4

Incident: One **County of Incident:** Ringgold **District:** Three

Property Damage () **Personal Injury (X)** **Fatal ()**

Self Inflicted () **Same Party (X)**

Date and Day of the Week: 3/25/2006 (Saturday)

Shooter Information

Age: 40 **Hunter Education:** Yes

Years Hunting Experience: 30

Game Hunted: Pheasant

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Firearm Used: Remington 11-87 (12 Gauge Shotgun)

Victim Information

Age: 28

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 90 Feet

Type of Cover: Light Cover - scattered locust trees in a draw

Narrative: Party of five were hunting pheasants on a hunting preserve with a guide in southern Iowa. A bird got up and the shooter fired striking the victim who was covered by heavy brush in the arms and chest with pellets.

Cause: Shooter swinging on game

Prevention: Know what is beyond your target, maintain a safe zone of fire.

Incident: Two **County of Incident:** Humboldt **District:** Five

Property Damage () **Personal Injury (X)** **Fatal ()**

Self Inflicted (X) **Same Party ()**

Date and Day of the Week: 4/13/2006 (Thursday)

Shooter Information

Age: 31 **Hunter Education:** Yes

Years Hunting Experience: 20

Game Hunted: Turkey

Attempting to Bag Game: No

Firearm Used: Browning Gold Hunter (12 Gauge Shotgun)

Victim Information

Age: N/A

Blaze Orange Apparel: No

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: Contact Wound

Type of Cover: Light Cover - timber edge and crop field

Narrative: Victim was turkey hunting with his son when he spotted what appeared to be a turkey sitting in a tree. The victim rested the muzzle of the gun on his foot while he used his binoculars to take a better look. The stock of the gun rested between his left elbow and left hip. While he maintained this position the gun discharged, striking the victim in the left big toe. The victim was unsure if the gun was on safe at the time of the incident.

Cause: Careless/reckless gun handling, failure to maintain safe muzzle control

Prevention: Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, do not take your gun off safe until you are ready to shoot

Incident: Three **County of Incident:** Johnson **District:** Four

Property Damage (X) **Personal Injury ()** **Fatal ()**

Self Inflicted () **Same Party ()**

Date and Day of the Week: 9/3/2006 (Sunday)

Shooter Information

Age: 28 **Hunter Education:** Yes

Years Hunting Experience: 12

Game Hunted: Canada Goose

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Firearm Used: Stoeger (12 Gauge Shotgun)

Victim Information

Age: N/A

Blaze Orange Apparel: No

Distance of Muzzle to PD: 148 Yards

Type of Cover: Open Area - field edge

Narrative: Two people were Canada Goose hunting on a wildlife area. The shooter fired at a passing goose, and failed to look beyond the target. The pellets from the shotgun struck a vehicle traveling along a nearby highway.

Cause: Vehicle out of sight of shooter, game flew between shooter and vehicle

Prevention: Know what is beyond your target, maintain a safe zone of fire

Incident: Four **County of Incident:** Fayette **District:** Two

Property Damage () **Personal Injury (X)** **Fatal ()**

Self Inflicted (X) **Same Party ()**

Date and Day of the Week: 9/9/2006 (Saturday)

Shooter Information

Age: 12 **Hunter Education:** Yes

Years Hunting Experience: 1

Game Hunted: Squirrel

Attempting to Bag Game: No

Firearm Used: Ruger 10-22 Carbine (.22 Caliber Rifle)

Victim Information

Age: N/A

Blaze Orange Apparel: No

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: Contact Wound

Type of Cover: Dense - woods

Narrative: Four people were squirrel hunting in northern Iowa. The Shooter, who was participating on his first hunt, was summoned over to take a shot. He successfully harvested the squirrel and was told to go retrieve the animal. The Shooter walked up to the squirrel, his gun was in his right hand and his finger was on the trigger, he leaned to pick up the squirrel and the gun discharged. The bullet entered the top of the Shooter's boot, passed through his foot and exited out the bottom of his boot.

Cause: Finger in trigger guard, safety off

Prevention: Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, keep the gun on safe until you are ready to take a shot

Incident: Five **County of Incident:** Louisa **District:** Four
Property Damage () **Personal Injury (X)** **Fatal ()**
Self Inflicted () **Same Party (X)**
Date and Day of the Week: 9/23/2006 (Saturday)

Shooter Information

Age: 19 **Hunter Education:** Yes

Years Hunting Experience: 7

Game Hunted: Ducks

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Firearm Used: Remington 870 Express (12 Gauge Shotgun)

Victim Information

Age: 21

Blaze Orange Apparel: No

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 50 Yards

Type of Cover: Light Cover - marsh

Narrative: The Victim had gone out to retrieve a duck. As he was out retrieving that duck, other ducks made a swing thru the decoys with one of the party shooting at those birds striking the victim in the thighs.

Cause: Victim covered by Shooter swinging on game, game flew between Shooter and Victim

Prevention: Know what's beyond your target, maintain a safe zone of fire

Incident: Six **County of Incident:** Winneshiek **District:** Two
Property Damage () **Personal Injury (X)** **Fatal ()**
Self Inflicted () **Same Party (X)**
Date and Day of the Week: 10/14/2006 (Saturday)

Shooter Information

Age: 17 **Hunter Education:** No

Years Hunting Experience: 2

Game Hunted: Squirrel

Attempting to Bag Game: No

Firearm Used: Ruger 10/22 (.22 Caliber Rifle)

Victim Information

Age: 20

Blaze Orange Apparel: No

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 6 Feet

Type of Cover: Open Area

Narrative: The Shooter went to sit the gun down when it discharged hitting the Victim in the back who was standing approximately six feet away shooting at a brush pile. The bullet entered his back approximately 3 inches from his spine, glanced off his left shoulder blade and travelled down his left arm coming to a rest near his tricep.

Cause: Inexperience with firearms and unsafe gun handling

Prevention: Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, do not take your gun off safe until you are ready to shoot

Incident: Seven **County of Incident:** Pocahontas **District:** One

Property Damage () **Personal Injury (X)** **Fatal ()**

Self Inflicted () **Same Party (X)**

Date and Day of the Week: 10/28/2006 (Saturday)

Shooter Information

Age: 32 **Hunter Education:** Yes

Years Hunting Experience: 12

Game Hunted: Pheasant

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Firearm Used: Charles Daily Auto Loader (12 Gauge Shotgun)

Victim Information

Age: 22

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 60 Yards

Type of Cover: Light Cover - field/cropland

Narrative: Party of seven were pheasant hunting in northern Iowa. A bird got up and two people fired. The victim was struck by pellets in the lip and hand. Based on evidence from the investigation the shooter was determined to be the person who fired approximately 60 yards away.

Cause: Game flew between Shooter and Victim, Victim covered by Shooter swinging on game, Shooter used inaccurate judgement while determining a safe zone of fire

Prevention: Know what is beyond your target, maintain a safe zone of fire

Incident: Eight **County of Incident:** Lee **District:** Four

Property Damage () **Personal Injury (X)** **Fatal ()**

Self Inflicted () **Same Party (X)**

Date and Day of the Week: 11/4/2006 (Saturday)

Shooter Information

Age: 14 **Hunter Education:** Yes

Years Hunting Experience: <1

Game Hunted: Quail

Attempting to Bag Game: No

Firearm Used: Charles Daily (20 Gauge Shotgun)

Victim Information

Age: 32

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 20 Yards

Type of Cover: Open Area - picked corn

Narrative: Party of four were quail hunting in a picked corn field. The Shooter stumbled on some picked corn stalks and fell. When he hit the ground his gun discharged and shot the Victim at approximately 20 yards in the left side of the face, neck, shoulder and left hand.

Cause: Shooter stumbled and fell, safety off

Prevention: Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, do not take your gun off safe until you are ready to shoot

Incident: Nine **County of Incident:** Mills **District:** Three
Property Damage () **Personal Injury (X)** **Fatal ()**
Self Inflicted () **Same Party (X)**
Date and Day of the Week: 11/19/2006 (Sunday)

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 43 **Hunter Education:** No **Age:** 9
Years Hunting Experience: 30 **Blaze Orange Apparel:** No
Game Hunted: Squirrel **Distance of Muzzle to Wound:** 70 - 80 Yards
Attempting to Bag Game: Yes **Type of Cover:** Dense Cover - short pine trees
Firearm Used: Beretta (12 Gauge Shotgun)

Narrative: The Shooter was hunting squirrel while his father and step-brother were working on a deer stand on the same property. The Shooter had worked his way back to the general area where he started, when he saw a squirrel on a downed log in heavy cover. The Shooter fired at the squirrel and then heard the Victim scream. The Victim was hit with approximately 14 pellets in the back and neck.

Cause: Victim out of sight of the Shooter, Game ran between Shooter and Victim

Prevention: Know what's beyond your target, maintain a safe zone of fire

Incident: Ten **County of Incident:** Poweshiek **District:** Six
Property Damage () **Personal Injury (X)** **Fatal ()**
Self Inflicted () **Same Party (X)**
Date and Day of the Week: 11/24/2006 (Friday)

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 58 **Hunter Education:** No **Age:** 39
Years Hunting Experience: 40 **Blaze Orange Apparel:** Yes
Game Hunted: Pheasant **Distance of Muzzle to Wound:** 50 Yards
Attempting to Bag Game: Yes **Type of Cover:** Open Area - grass ditch
Firearm Used: Remington 1100 (12 Gauge Shotgun)

Narrative: Four hunters were driving together in a truck when they saw a rooster pheasant cross in front of them. Two people were let out of the truck with their shotguns to walk the ditch. The other two drove up to the intersection and got out. The Victim was acting as a blocker as the other two walked the ditch towards him. At approximately 50 yards away a rooster flushed and the Shooter aimed and fired striking the Victim with 11 pellets to the face, chest and arm.

Cause: Game flew between the Shooter and Victim

Prevention: Know what's beyond your target, maintain a safe zone of fire

Incident: Eleven **County of Incident:** Poweshiek **District:** Six

Property Damage () **Personal Injury (X)** **Fatal ()**

Self Inflicted (X) **Same Party ()**

Date and Day of the Week: 11/26/2006 (Sunday)

Shooter Information

Age: 24 **Hunter Education:** Yes

Years Hunting Experience: 20

Game Hunted: Raccoon

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Firearm Used: Ruger 2245 (.22 Caliber Handgun)

Victim Information

Age: N/A

Blaze Orange Apparel: No

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 3-4 Feet

Type of Cover: Dense Cover - brush pile

Narrative: Two hunters were attempting to shoot a raccoon which had went into a brush pile. The Shooter/Victim went up on top of the brush pile and had to lay down on his stomach to get a shot at the raccoon. He shot down the brush pile and the bullet ricocheted back up striking the Shooter/Victim in the right thigh.

Cause: Ricochet

Prevention: Any time there is any level of risk with taking a shot, when in doubt don't.

Incident: Twelve **County of Incident:** Poweshiek **District:** Six

Property Damage () **Personal Injury (X)** **Fatal ()**

Self Inflicted () **Same Party (X)**

Date and Day of the Week: 11/27/2006 (Monday)

Shooter Information

Age: 50 **Hunter Education:** Yes

Years Hunting Experience: 40

Game Hunted: Pheasant

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Firearm Used: Browning Citori (12 Gauge Shotgun)

Victim Information

Age: 55

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 80 Yards

Type of Cover: Dense Cover - switch grass

Narrative: Two people were hunting pheasant in switch grass. A pheasant flushed and the Shooter took a shot striking the Victim who was out of sight in the face and leg with pellets.

Cause: Victim out of sight of Shooter, game flew between Shooter and Victim

Prevention: Know what is beyond your target, maintain a safe zone of fire

Incident: Thirteen

County of Incident: Monroe

District: Six

Property Damage (X)

Personal Injury ()

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party ()

Date and Day of the Week: 12/2/2006 (Saturday)

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 56 **Hunter Education:** No

Age: N/A

Years Hunting Experience: 45

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Deer

Distance of Muzzle to PD: 102 Yards

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: Light Cover - pasture

Firearm Used: Remington 870 (12 Gauge Shotgun)

Narrative: The Shooter was deer hunting when a number of deer ran across the pasture. He shot at the deer as they ran and ended up hitting a vehicle that was sitting at the end of a driveway occupied by a person. The slug broke the windshield and damaged the sun visor and headliner within the vehicle.

Cause: Careless/reckless, Vehicle covered by Shooter swinging on game, game ran between the Shooter and Vehicle

Prevention: Know what is beyond your target, maintain a safe zone of fire, do not discharge a slug across public roadway, do not shoot at game within 200 yards of inhabited building

Incident: Fourteen

County of Incident: Appanoose

District: Six

Property Damage (X)

Personal Injury ()

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party ()

Date and Day of the Week: 12/2/2006 (Saturday)

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 48 **Hunter Education:** No

Age: N/A

Years Hunting Experience: 30

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Deer

Distance of Muzzle to PD: 400-500 Yards

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: Open Area - field/cropland

Firearm Used: Mossberg 835 (12 Gauge Shotgun)

Narrative: Two people were deer hunting in an open field. The Shooter was approximately 400 yards from the residence when he fired a shot at a deer that ran between him and the house. The slug had just enough velocity to pass through the window, but caused no additional damage in the house.

Cause: Game ran between Shooter and the House, possible ricochet, careless or reckless

Prevention: Know what is beyond your target, maintain a safe zone of fire

Incident: Fifteen **County of Incident:** Decatur **District:** Six

Property Damage (X) **Personal Injury ()** **Fatal ()**

Self Inflicted () **Same Party ()**

Date and Day of the Week: 12/9/2006 (Saturday)

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: Unk **Hunter Education:** Unk

Age: N/A

Years Hunting Experience: Unk

Blaze Orange Apparel: Unk

Game Hunted: Deer

Distance of Muzzle to PD: Unk

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Type of Cover: Dense Cover - timber

Firearm Used: 12 Gauge Shotgun

Narrative: A group of 20 were hunting deer on the property adjacent to the Vehicles location. Several deer were running along the property line when a subject who was staying in a camper felt a jolt to the camper and heard a popping noise. The subject went outside and looked over the camper and attached vehicle. He discovered that the rear tire of the vehicle was flat. After the investigation it was determined that the slug most likely came from one of the drivers in the timber and it appeared to have ricocheted off of something prior to hitting the vehicle's tire. Since the slug ricocheted the exact location of the Shooter was unable to be determined.

Cause: Vehicle out of sight of Shooter, ricochet

Prevention: Know what is beyond your target, maintain a safe zone of fire

Incident: Sixteen **County of Incident:** Emmet **District:** One

Property Damage () **Personal Injury (X)** **Fatal ()**

Self Inflicted (X) **Same Party ()**

Date and Day of the Week: 12/9/2006 (Saturday)

Shooter Information

Victim Information

Age: 59 **Hunter Education:** No

Age: N/A

Years Hunting Experience: 0

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Game Hunted: Deer

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 24 Inches

Attempting to Bag Game: No

Type of Cover: Vehicle - door

Firearm Used: Wards Western Field (20 Gauge Shotgun)

Narrative: The Shooter/Victim was done hunting and was back at his vehicle. While at the vehicle the Shooter/Victim had his left hand on top of the door and had his gun cradled in his other arm. The gun slipped through his arm and hand and went off when the butt of the gun hit the ground. The shot fractured the carpal and metacarpal bones and left open wounds near the ulnar and radial areas of the left wrist.

Cause: Firearm fell, insecure rest

Prevention: Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, do not take your gun off safe until you are ready to shoot

Incident: Seventeen **County of Incident:** Allamakee **District:** Two

Property Damage () **Personal Injury (X)** **Fatal ()**

Self Inflicted () **Same Party (X)**

Date and Day of the Week: 12/10/2006 (Sunday)

Shooter Information

Age: 15 **Hunter Education:** Yes

Years Hunting Experience: 3

Game Hunted: Deer

Attempting to Bag Game: Yes

Firearm Used: Winchester 1300 (12 Gauge Shotgun)

Victim Information

Age: 44

Blaze Orange Apparel: Yes

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: 288 Yards

Type of Cover: Open Area - fence row

Narrative: A group of 16 were hunting deer in a harvested been field. A single deer crossed between the drivers and standers. Six people in the group took shots at the running deer. After the investigation it was determined that the Shooter (driver) fired a shot that entered the upper leather part of the Victim's (stander) boot. The slug injured her leg and stayed in the boot.

Cause: Victim covered by Shooter swinging on game, game ran between the Shooter and Victim

Prevention: Know what is beyond your target, maintain a safe zone of fire, safer placement of hunters

Incident: Eighteen **County of Incident:** Lucas **District:** Six

Property Damage () **Personal Injury (X)** **Fatal ()**

Self Inflicted (X) **Same Party ()**

Date and Day of the Week: 12/10/2006 (Sunday)

Shooter Information

Age: 32 **Hunter Education:** Yes

Years Hunting Experience: 14

Game Hunted: Deer

Attempting to Bag Game: No

Firearm Used: Mossberg 9200 (12 Gauge Shotgun)

Victim Information

Age: N/A

Blaze Orange Apparel: No

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: Contact Wound

Type of Cover: Dense Cover - timber pasture

Narrative: The Shooter/Victim was sitting by a pine tree and there was a limb sticking him in the back. He used the butt of the gun to break off the limb. When he hit the limb the gun discharged striking his finger and removing it completely.

Cause: Unsafe gun handling

Prevention: Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, do not use a gun to strike an object

Incident: Nineteen

County of Incident: Clinton

District: Four

Property Damage (X)

Personal Injury ()

Fatal ()

Self Inflicted ()

Same Party ()

Date and Day of the Week: 12/10/2006 (Sunday)

Shooter Information

Age: Unk **Hunter Education:** Unk

Years Hunting Experience: Unk

Game Hunted: Unk

Attempting to Bag Game: Unk

Firearm Used: Shotgun

Victim Information

Age: N/A

Blaze Orange Apparel: Unk

Distance of Muzzle to Wound: Unk

Type of Cover: Unk

Narrative: The homeowners heard approximately four shots and then a window was broken. Fortunately, the deer slug did not penetrate the second pane of the glass. The officers interviewed a group of hunters in the area but were unable to determine who the shooter was.

Cause: Unable to determine

Prevention: Unable to determine

**Property damage over \$100.00 must be reported.*



"This is why we do what we do!"

